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Janesville Park and Open Space Plan



CITY OF JANESVILLE
Wisconsin's Park Place

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Introduction and Purpose of Plan

Communities throughout the country recognize that parkland, recreation trails, and natural areas are key components of high quality living environments. Such open spaces provide a community with many benefits. These include supplying opportunities for outdoor recreation, promoting and accommodating a healthy lifestyle for residents, enhancing the aesthetic quality of a community, increasing property values, attracting visitors and tourists, shaping development patterns, and protecting the natural environment.

The City of Janesville has a proud history of planning for parks, recreation, and open space. The earliest plan for the City, prepared by renowned planner John Nolen in the 1920s, originated the concept of the City-wide greenbelt system, as well as prioritized preservation of open space along the Rock River – running through the heart of the City. The City has implemented and expanded upon this early vision and today offers a higher ratio of park and open space land per capita than any other community in the State of Wisconsin. Residents and visitors continue to value the range of



activities provided for in its parks, vast areas of protected greenbelts, and miles of recreational trails. The City is connected to a thriving system of regional natural resources – situated along the Rock River Corridor, and set within Wisconsin's terminal moraine. During the next several decades, collaboration to continue to protect and enhance those resources will be critical. The City has branded itself and earns the claim as "Wisconsin's Park Place."

The primary purpose of this *Plan* is to proactively account for and anticipate the City's future park and recreation needs. Furthermore, the recommendations presented in the *Plan* will guide the acquisition, preservation, and development of land for parks, recreation trails, and other open spaces to meet the needs of the City's growing and changing population. Such recommendations will also serve to protect and enhance the community's natural resource base into the future. Although this *Plan* addresses the long-range park and open space needs of the community (through the year 2040), it focuses on recommendations for development over the next ten-year period (2016-2026).

This *Plan* is also intended to incorporate and refine the previous findings and recommendations presented in the City's 1998-2002 *Parks and Open Space Plan* and expand on recommendations of the *City of Janesville Comprehensive Plan*.

This *Plan* was prepared in accordance with guidelines that will make it certifiable by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WisDNR) and will qualify the City for matching grant funds through the Federal Land and Water Conservation Fund (LAWCON) and the State of Wisconsin Stewardship Fund. The *Plan* must be updated every five years to ensure that it reflects the current needs of the City and retains its WisDNR certification. This *Plan* is consistent with the City's Comprehensive Plan, under Wisconsin Statutes 62.23 and 61.35. Furthermore, it will be

incorporated as a detailed component of the City's Comprehensive Plan under Wisconsin Statutes 66.1001.

Chapter One: Background Information

A. General Regional Context

The City of Janesville, estimated 2010 population of 63,575, is located in the center of Rock County where it is the County seat. Janesville is located 45 miles southeast of the City of Madison, 20 miles southwest of Whitewater, and north of the City of Beloit (12 miles) and Rockford, Illinois (35 miles). Janesville is bordered by the Town of Harmony on the northeast, Town of Janesville to the northwest, the Town of Rock to the southwest and the Town of La Prairie to the southeast. The City of Milton is located to the northeast of Janesville – with the City limits nearly meeting on Janesville’s northeast side. In a broader regional context – the City is located roughly 75 miles southwest of Milwaukee, and 110 miles northwest of Chicago.

B. Background Information

Appendix A of this *Plan* includes information on existing natural features and demographic data.

C. Review of Existing Plans

A critical step in the park planning process is an examination of past planning efforts in the City. A comprehensive understanding of how the City has evolved over time and how it has been planning for the future establishes guidelines and a starting point for this *Plan’s* recommendations. Moreover, a review of existing plans helps ensure consistency between this *Plan* and the City’s ongoing goals, objectives, and policies. In addition, a review of related planning efforts from overlapping jurisdictions helps provide for coordination between this *Plan* and those of other jurisdictions.

City of Janesville Parks and Open Space Plan, 2008-2018

Janesville’s first park plan was developed in 1972. Previous to this update, the City’s most recent Parks and Open Space Plan was adopted in 2008 and focuses on the acquisition and development of new municipal active and passive recreational facilities, reflecting the City’s progressive attitude toward its park system. Specifically, the Plan recommends the expansion of the Northeast Regional Park, acquisition of a new community park on the northeast side of Janesville, expansion of existing neighborhood parks, and acquisition of new neighborhood parks as the City expands. This *Park and Open Space Plan* will function as an update to the 2008 Plan and will build upon the recommendations therein to reflect up-to-date and accurate recommendations for the City’s current population.

Rock County Park and Outdoor Recreation Plan, 2015-2020

In January 2015, the Rock County Board of Supervisors adopted the Rock County Parks, Outdoor Recreation and Open Space Plan (POROS), which contains detailed descriptions of and site maps for all 20 County parks. The plan was developed through an extensive public participation effort, which indicated that respondents felt there was a need for additional hiking trails and picnic areas. Overall, the highest priority over the planning period was to provide each County park with adequate infrastructure including restrooms, drinking water, parking, internal park signage, and vehicular and pedestrian access. There are two County park facilities in the City – Glen Erin Golf Course (a private golf course) and Airport Park. This *Plan* recognizes the input provided as part of

the County process, and that the City may be able to fulfill some need for hiking trails/natural areas and other priorities identified through the County's planning process.

Janesville Area MPO Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan

The Janesville Area Metropolitan Planning Organization Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan was prepared as part of the Janesville Area Metropolitan Planning Organization's 2015-2050 Long Range Transportation Plan. The Plan serves as a long-range action plan for development and construction of on-street and off-street bicycle and pedestrian facilities within the urban area. The Plan proposes extensions to the linear trail system already established along the Rock River and throughout several greenbelts. The Plan also initiates a recognizable on-street system designed to promote bicycle use and safety for cyclists traveling on arterial streets. These recommendations are incorporated into this *Plan*.

City of Janesville Downtown Vision and Strategy

The City of Janesville and the Downtown Development Alliance collaborated to develop the Downtown Vision and Strategy plan. Adopted in November 2007, this document is intended to build on past planning efforts to develop a cohesive vision for the downtown; identify key gaps, opportunities, and catalytic projects for the downtown; develop a clear and achievable implementation strategy; and create a clear structure and public-private partnerships to implement these recommendations.

Parks and recreation are an integral part of Downtown, including the corridor of regional park and recreational facilities extending from Jeffris Park/Dawson Field to Palmer Park. These facilities encompass a range of active and passive recreational facilities – including specialized recreation areas. Key recommendations regarding parks and open space include enhancing the Rock River as a recreational resource, developing a riverwalk along both sides of the River, and improving connections between existing parks and open spaces. These recommendations are incorporated into this Plan.

Rock Renaissance Area Redevelopment and Implementation Strategy (ARISE)

Adopted in 2015, ARISE further assesses the issues present on particular development sites and builds public awareness of the challenges and opportunities for redevelopment in downtown and along the river. It also presents relatively well-articulated redevelopment strategies – including action steps needed (potential cost implications, funding sources, strategic partnerships, etc.) for the area. The ARISE Plan incorporates past planning efforts and acts as a playbook for action that the city can use when working with developers, land owners, elected officials, and businesses downtown to encourage and guide environmental cleanup and redevelopment of declining sites near the river downtown. ARISE strategies and redevelopment concepts embrace the Rock River as an important asset and propose a mix of open space, recreation, and appropriate redevelopment consistent with the Comprehensive Plan, other downtown plans, and previous park plans. Specific recommendations from ARISE have been incorporated into this *Plan*.

Park and Special Use Facility Master Plans

The following City parks and special use facilities have original Master Plans, which serve as development and maintenance guides. The recommendations within this *Plan* acknowledge the original master plans, while also considering current needs.

- Rockport Park
- Northeast Regional Park
- Palmer Park
- Optimist Community Park
- Youth Sports Facility
- La Prairie Park
- Riverside Park
- Traxler Park

Wisconsin Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan, 2011-2016

The Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP) examines and assesses current and future recreational needs within the state. To aid in the process of preparing a statewide SCORP, Wisconsin was divided into a group of eight planning regions, each representing a loose collection of natural resource and tourism based assets. The City of Janesville is located in the area identified as the Southern Gateway Planning Region.

One of the primary purposes of the SCORP is to identify shortfalls in recreation facilities across the state. This identification process relies on both primary data gathering techniques such as surveys, local park and recreation plans, as well as anecdotal comments on recreation user perceptions. In the Southern Gateways Planning Region, the SCORP identifies the following nature-based supply shortages: backcountry/walk-in camping, boat launches (carry-in), natural areas, public water access, hiking trails, and horseback riding trails. The majority of these activities are more applicable to unincorporated areas. The SCORP also identified the following developed recreation supply shortages: boat launches, educational camps, dog parks, ice skating rinks, nature centers, picnic areas, sailboat clubs/rentals, tennis courts and programs, and bicycle trails. Most of these activities are more appropriate for developed areas, like the City of Janesville.

In addition, several recreation needs are common throughout the State. Common deficiencies within the nature-based category include a shortage of parks, camping, carry-in boat launches, and certain trail types. These elements are, for the most part, provided at a federal, state, or county level of development. Within the developed setting category, local shortages such as basketball courts, ice skating rinks, boat launches, and dog parks are the most common.

As a component of preparing this Plan, the City considered the supply shortages noted through the SCORP, and internally evaluated its current and potential ability to provide the needed components. Many of those deficiency areas identified are more effectively delivered by the State or County park systems. The recommendations provided in Chapter Five suggest how the City intends to provide for some of the recreational needs identified in the SCORP.

Chapter Two: Existing Park, Recreational, and Open Space Facilities

Park, open space, and recreational facilities in the community are divided into several categories based on their characteristics. In this Chapter, the Plan provides a narrative discussion of the existing park, recreation, and open space system in the City. In following Chapters, those existing facilities are evaluated against quantitative standards.

A. Description of Existing Park, Recreational, and Open Space Facilities

The following is a summary of the existing park and recreational facilities within the City. These facilities are depicted on Map 1. As of 2016, the City had approximately 2,580 acres of parks and open space, encompassing about 12 percent of its total land area. Appendix B includes a complete list of parks and open space in the Janesville area.

Regional Parks

Regional parks are large parks that provide active and passive recreation for the entire community. Regional parks generally include the facilities of community and neighborhood parks. In addition, regional parks may have areas for swimming and boating, trails for biking/jogging/skiing, athletic playfields, playgrounds, tennis courts, basketball courts, picnic areas, and nature study areas. Janesville has a total of four regional parks encompassing approximately 619 acres.

Northeast Regional Park: Located at 3600 North Wright Road, this park is 88 acres of largely undeveloped woods and open space. A 50-foot sledding hill was created with 75,000 cubic yards of soil from drainage and stormwater management excavation work. Trail will be extended through the western edge of the park up to Rotamer Road in 2019 or 2020. Improvements to this park are being considered in the future.

Palmer Park: This 165-acre park is located on the City's southwest side at 2501 Palmer Drive. Existing amenities include a bike trail, wading pool, sand volleyball courts, the C.A.M.D.E.N. playground, nature trails, softball field, nine tennis courts, three pavilions, a dog exercise and training area, a concession stand and the City's visitor information center. Fundraising is currently taking place for the renovation of C.A.M.D.E.N. playground. Renovation is expected to be completed by October 2016.

Riverside Park: This 97-acre park is located on the City's northwest side. It was acquired in 1921 making it Janesville's oldest regional park. The park includes nearly two miles of frontage along the Rock River and offers a boat launch and fishing areas in addition to a baseball field operated and maintained by the local American Legion, two pavilions, play equipment, and the scenic Devil's Staircase segment of the Ice Age National Scenic Trail (Ice Age NST). In 2015, the wading pool was taken out of operation and a new splashpad was put in place at the site of the existing sand volleyball courts. The first operational season of the splashpad started on July 3rd, 2015. The park adjoins a 143-acre City golf course.

Rockport Park: This park is located at 2801 Rockport Road on the City's west side. As Janesville's largest park, Rockport supplies 268 acres of parkland including hiking, mountain biking, and cross-

country ski trails, an outdoor pool, a soccer field, historic landmarks, access to the Peace Park playground and pavilion, and the City's paved trail network.

Community Parks

Community parks provide recreational facilities for all ages, generally serving the one-mile area surrounding the park. In addition to the facilities in neighborhood parks (described on the following page), community parks may include picnic areas, tables and grills, open picnic shelters, restrooms, tennis courts, and a maintenance building. Janesville has a total of eight community parks encompassing nearly 249 acres.

Bond Park: This 12-acre park is located at 201 North Oakhill Avenue and offers a variety of sports facilities including basketball courts, softball and soccer fields. There is also play equipment and a pavilion. The plaza-style skate park began operation in September 2015. The park was named to honor Carrie Jacobs Bond, a renowned Janesville resident who was born in 1862 next to Bond Park. Ms. Bond went on to write the famous song 'I love you truly', and many others.

Kiwanis Park: This 9-acre park is located at 2501 North Pontiac Drive. There are two small picnic pavilions and a playground, a soccer field and a softball field, as well as a 22-stall off-street parking lot. The Kiwanis Club intends to assist with renovating the current playground in 2016.

Lustig Park: Located at 1500 River View Drive, the 31-acre park includes a large mature stand of scenic oak trees with a picnic pavilion and restrooms and an 18 hole disc golf course. It also provides opportunities for fishing along the Rock River. Lustig Park is leased from the State of Wisconsin with a 30-year lease extending to 2017.

Monterey Park: Located at 501 Rockport Road, this 29-acre park is located along the Rock River with nearly one mile of shoreline. Facilities for basketball, softball, a stadium for football and track and fishing are offered, along with the paved bike trail. Monterey rock and cave provide a beautiful view of the river. There is also a historic monument detailing the location of the first log cabin built in Rock County in 1835.

Optimist Community Park: This 37-acre park is located at 4201 Ruger Avenue. It is largely undeveloped, offering a small picnic pavilion, hiking trail with stream ford across Blackhawk Creek, diverse forest planting zones, and prairie remnants.



Monterey Rock & Cave

Traxler Park: Located at 600 North Main Street, this 37-acre park was donated to the city by the Lions Club in 1929 as Goose Island. It was renamed in 1956 in honor of Janesville's first City Manager Henry Traxler. The park offers a veterans' memorial and walkway, an outdoor skating rink, both an enclosed and an open air pavilion, play equipment, and sand volleyball courts. Located along the Rock River, Traxler is home to the Rock Aqua Jays, a water ski show team.

Prairie Knoll Park: Located on South Oakhill, part of this nearly 40-acre park includes a fee based fenced dog park known as Paw Print Park and a link to the paved bike trail.

Unnamed Community Park: Located in the 2400 block of Beloit Avenue, this 55-acre undeveloped park is adjacent to Jackson Elementary School. It was established in 1999 as a residential buffer from a future industrial park. The park is generally flat open space, which is conducive for a variety of future recreational activities.

Neighborhood Parks

Neighborhood parks are primarily designed for use by pre-teenage children and may include active recreational facilities such as a playground and softball backstop. They can also incorporate passive recreational areas for picnicking and nature study. The numbered neighborhood parks listed in Table 1 correspond with Map 1: Existing Parks, Recreational Facilities, and Trails. Janesville has a total of 34 neighborhood parks encompassing nearly 112 acres. For the purposes of this *Plan*, elementary school sites are also recognized as functional neighborhoods parks. Elementary school sites are described later in this Chapter.

Table 1: Existing Neighborhood Parks

Number	Name	Total Acres	Number	Name	Total Acres
1	Fourth Ward Park	2.05	18	Marquette Park	11.87
2	Adams Park	0.93	19	Nantucket Park	4.63
3	Ardon Park	4.11	20	Parker Park	0.94
4	Briar Crest Park	9.39	21	Pershing Park	3.02
5	Burbank Park	2.36	22	Prairie Park	0.81
6	Claremont Park	3.43	23	River Valley Park	1.37
7	Excalibur Park	3.82	24	Ruger Park	1.66
8	Greendale Park	1.42	25	Rushmore Park	0.97
9	Hampshire Park	2.44	26	Sherwood Park	4.08
10	Harmony Grove Park	8.11	27	South Gate Park	1.32
11	Hawthorne Park	4.50	28	Unnamed Park	2.81
12	Holiday Park	1.53	29	Valley Park	3.63
13	Huron Park	1.97	30	Vista Park	1.38
14	Industrial Park	1.41	31	Washington Park	1.66
15	Jefferson Park	2.21	32	Waveland Park	4.10
16	Loch Lomond Park	7.48	33	Woodcrest Park	6.97
17	Mandale Park	3.13	34	Zonta Park	1.07

Special Use Facilities

Special use facilities generally serve a single recreation purpose, such as golf courses, nature centers, and ice arenas. In some cases, special use facilities are located within community or regional parks and share some of their facilities (e.g. parking, restrooms). Other special use facilities may be separate entities. Special use facilities also include historical sites, and natural areas of special significance, which are protected from urban development. Table 2 includes the special use facilities in the City of Janesville. These areas encompass nearly 810 acres.



Rotary Gardens

Table 2: Existing Special Use Facilities

Name	Type of Facility	Total Acres
Black Bridge Hills Recreation Area	Reclaimed Landfill	87.87
Blackhawk Golf Course	Golf Course	78.33
Blackhawk Meadows Park	South Facing Prairie Remnant	2.09
Courthouse Hill Park: Lower	Urban Park & Community Performance Center	1.60
Courthouse Hill Park: Upper	Urban Park	1.60
Dawson Field	Softball Complex	25.03
Indoor Ice Center	Indoor Ice Activities Facility	3.90
Jeffris Park	Natural Wetland Area	9.70
Kiwanis Pond	Urban Lake	34.36
La Prairie Park	Police Indoor Shooting Range, Outdoor Club Trap Shooting Range	33.12
Lions Park	Natural Area and Community Beach	25.28
Oak Hill Cemetery	Cemetery	90
Peace Park	Community Build ADA Accessible Park	5.59
Riverside Golf Course	Golf Course	135.73
Robert O. Cook Memorial Arboretum	Botanical Gardens	159.62
Rotary Gardens	Botanical Gardens	17.66
Spring Brook Preservation Area	Native Wetland	50.99
Lincoln Tallman House	Historic Home	1.37
Youth Sports Complex	Youth Athletic Fields	86.17

Natural Areas, Open Space, and Greenbelts

In addition to the provision of recreational opportunities, a parks and open space system also serves to preserve and protect natural resources. Janesville has been a leader in preserving critical natural areas. Approximately one-third of the park system is in a natural state, open space, or greenbelts. The City has developed an extensive system of natural areas, open space, and greenbelts through past purchases and acquisition of river frontage, flood plains, wetlands, wooded hills, steep slopes, and stream-fed valleys.

In total, there are approximately 790 acres of natural areas, open space, river frontage, and greenbelt lands, excluding right-of-way areas. Those lands should be recognized not only for their importance in providing passive recreational opportunities, but should also be used to satisfy active recreational needs when they may be incorporated in a safe and effective manner (i.e. trails in greenbelts and medians of public streets). The following areas are specifically accommodated in the natural areas, open space and greenbelts category.

River Parkways: River parkways are linear public open spaces intended primarily for passive but also active recreation such as walking and bicycling. These areas of open space abut the Rock River and generally are not part of a specific park, but may serve as a link between parks.

As of January 2007, there were nearly 18 miles of Rock River shoreline within the corporate limits. The City provides public ownership of 14 miles or approximately 77 percent of this total. The City has continued to pursue acquisition of river front land with willing sellers.

Greenbelts: Greenbelts are areas that are more than 100 feet in width and reserved by the City to be held as permanent areas of open space. They facilitate surface water runoff, provide areas for ground water recharge and preserve sensitive environmental areas including bluffs, severe slopes, stands of trees and significant animal and plant communities including prairie remnants and threatened plant species which need to be preserved. These areas may also satisfy passive and active recreational needs by accommodating multi-purpose

NATURAL AREAS, OPEN SPACE, & GREENBELTS

These areas perform a variety of functions having recreational, ecological, social and economic significance including:

- ♦ Maintain buffers between conflicting land uses, therefore shaping and supporting development trends.
- ♦ Provide for natural resource conservation by reducing air, water, and noise pollution.
- ♦ Enhance the overall quality of the environment by contributing to urban beautification.
- ♦ Link parks, schools and civic centers into a linear open space system. Form an interconnected parks and open space system by connecting existing and proposed parks.

By preserving environmentally sensitive areas, we protect our water resources and wildlife populations, reduce flood damage, minimize soil erosion, and enhance educational, scientific and recreational opportunities.

Maintaining Greenbelts and Natural Areas

Janesville's greenbelt system preserves the natural drainage ways that feed into the Rock River. The greenbelt system in its original prairie conditions is the ideal way for treating (cleaning) stormwater as it drains. Techniques for maintaining or restoring the greenbelt for optimum water quality include cutting trees and invasive shrubs, and burning. Factors effecting how areas are treated include the existing topography, existing trees and ground vegetation, the extent of any erosion, and the interests of adjacent property owners.

trails and minor park development on larger fringe areas. Greenbelts, in effect, often tie park components together thus providing the community with a resource based outdoor recreational opportunity and experience. As of 2016, there were 817 acres of greenbelts and natural area in the City.

Drainageways: Drainageways serve the same basic function as greenbelts, but they are less than 100 feet in width. They may appear as ravines, gullies, ditches, or similar areas. They are intended to carry small volumes of water. Drainageways do not generally accommodate trails and park development because of their narrow width.

Public Elementary School Recreation Areas

Table 3 provides a list of public elementary schools in the City of Janesville. For the purposes of this *Plan*, elementary schools are considered to function similarly to neighborhood parks. There are currently 13 elementary school sites in the City, with approximately 83 acres of recreation area.

Table 3: Existing Public Elementary School Recreation Areas

Name	Total Acres	Recreation / Open Space Acres
Adams Elementary	9.57	5.74
Harmony Elementary	5.60	3.51
Harrison Elementary	9.72	4.55
Jackson Elementary	10.21	5.38
Jefferson Elementary	13.40	7.73
Kennedy Elementary	10.00	4.23
Lincoln Elementary	13.78	7.78
Madison Elementary	16.43	10.40
Monroe Elementary	17.93	13.99
Roosevelt Elementary	5.93	3.39
Van Buren Elementary	10.13	6.34
Washington Elementary	11.90	8.72
Wilson Elementary	4.57	1.68
TOTAL	139.2	83.4

Trails

The City of Janesville was an early leader in planning for and developing a comprehensive trail system. The first segment of trail was constructed in 1993 along Springbrook Creek and now measures roughly 30 miles within city limits. Map 1 shows the chronology of the paved portion of the trail system.

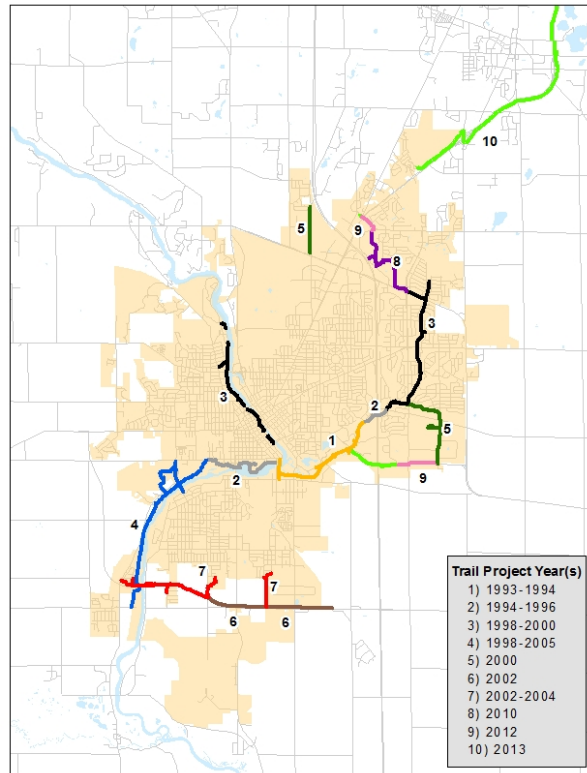
The 2015-2050 Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan recommends an additional 22 miles of paved trail within the urban area, which includes the City of Milton. The Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan, and its impact on the parks and open space system, will be addressed in detail in Chapter Five.

The City of Janesville has a comprehensive trail network along the linear open space corridors fronting the Rock River, the Spring Brook, the Blackhawk Creek, and following the City's extensive greenbelt system. These trails are depicted on Map 2 and described below.

Ice Age Trail: This trail was originally called the Kiwanis Trail along the west bank of the Rock River and the Spring Brook Trail along the east greenbelt. The City renamed the segments to simplify the trail system and emphasize the Ice Age NST designation. The asphalt-paved portion of the Ice Age Trail spans from the pedestrian overpass over STH 26, follows behind major commercial development along Deerfield Drive, then follows Spring Brook Creek to Jackson Street. In the downtown, the Ice Age Trail continues to have some missing links along the west bank of the Rock River. The paved portion ends on the north end at Riverside Park.

There are two additional non-paved segments of Ice Age NST. On the west side, a footpath extends from Riverside Park through Robert O. Cook Memorial Arboretum. On the east side of the city, a former rail bed was converted to a crushed limestone multi-use path from Kennedy Road to the City of Milton.

Peace Trail: The paved portion of the Peace Trail follows the contour of the Rock River extending from the Rockport Road/South Franklin Street intersection through Monterey Park, to Rockport



Map 1: Paved Trail System Construction Year



Pedestrian Bridge

Park. The Peace Trail continues down the west bank of the Rock River and terminates at Tripp Road. Crushed limestone trail continues from Tripp Road to the Village of Afton. Trailhead parking lots are provided at the Afton Road Boat Launch, Fisher Creek, and Tripp Road.

USH 11 Connector Trail: From the intersection of Afton Road and STH 11, this 4-mile off-street trail extends east along the STH 11 to Read Road. At Read Road the trail is on-road and turns north on Sharon Road where it connects with Spring Brook Trail and Palmer Park.

Kennedy Road: This $\frac{3}{4}$ -mile off-street paved trail is located in the northern portion of the City, paralleling Kennedy Road from USH 14 to the trailhead parking lot for the Ice Age NST.

Trail Connectors: The City provides 3.25 miles of miscellaneous trail connections that provide access to the City's main trail system.

Other Public and Private Recreation Facilities

Within the Janesville planning area, there are many other public, quasi-public, and private recreational facilities. These facilities are not included in Janesville's Parks and Open Space system for planning purposes, but are important because they do serve the needs of the region and City residents, and may thereby relieve pressure on the City system. Facilities include:

- University of Wisconsin-Rock County
- Rock County Fairgrounds
- Wisconsin Center for the Blind and Visually Impaired
- Youth Baseball League
- Camp Indian Trails (Boy Scouts)
- Rock County Parks
- Township Parks
- Janesville Parochial Schools
- Camp Rotamer (Rotary Club)

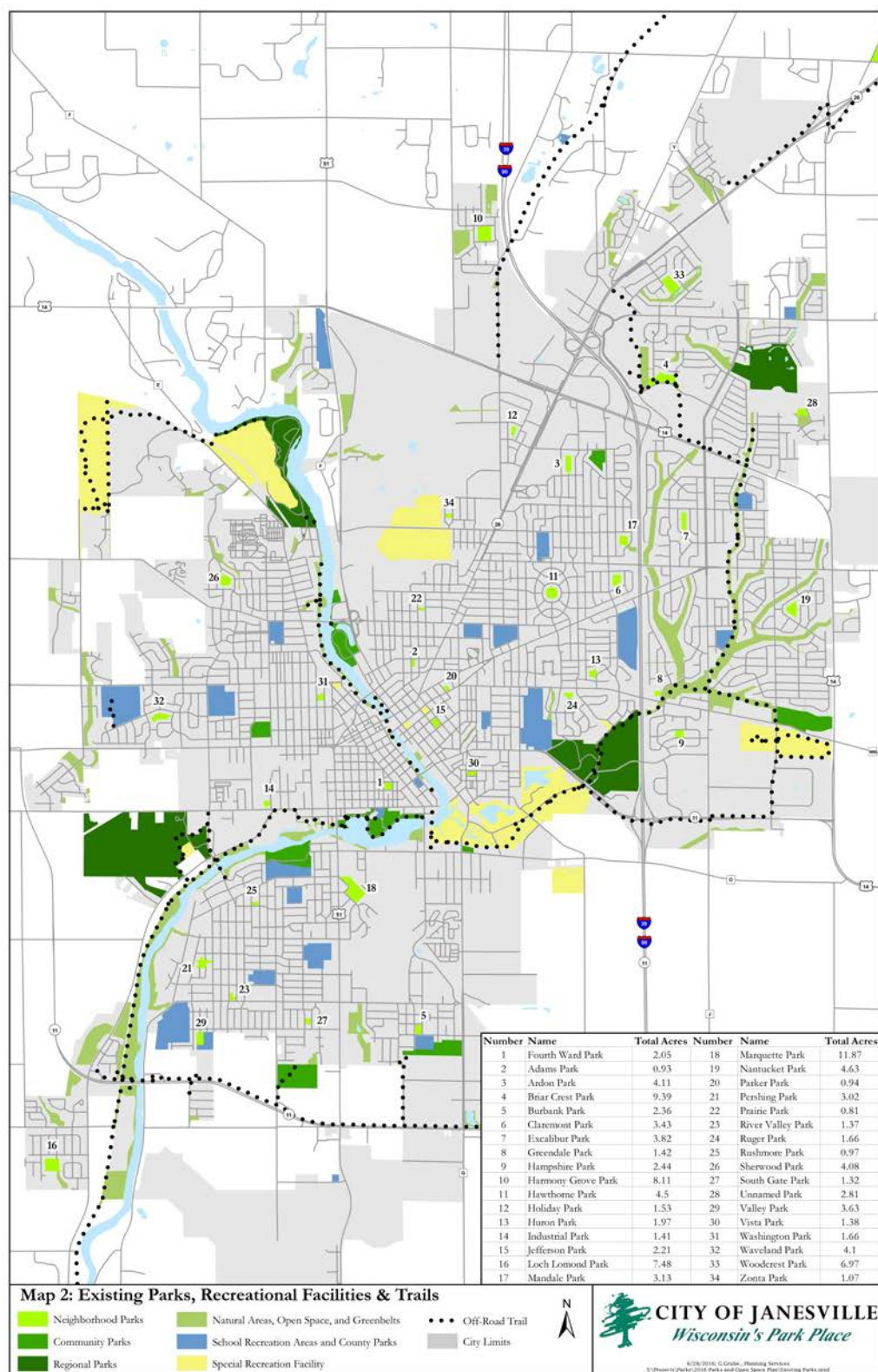
B. Accessibility-Universal Design and ADA Compliance

Park and recreational facilities should be made barrier-free and accessible to disabled park users to meet the guidelines of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). Reasonable accommodation should be provided where feasible, such that the majority of park facilities and outdoor features are accessible to as many visitors as possible. Furthermore, universal design standards should be followed to comply with federal ADA regulations as a requirement for most grant-in-aid programs.



C.A.M.D.E.N Playground

Map 2: Existing Parks, Recreational Facilities, and Trails



Chapter Three: Goals, Objectives, and Strategies

A. Summary of Public Participation Results

This *Park and Open Space Plan* is consistent with, and is a detailed component of, the City of Janesville 2008 Comprehensive Plan. As part of this update, the City provided several opportunities for public input on parks, recreation, and open space in the City. These input opportunities included a community-wide online survey that was shared in a variety of ways, including the City's website and Facebook page. The survey was also shared on the Janesville Gazette website and the link was emailed directly to interested stakeholder groups. A summary of the outcomes of the participation events related to this *Plan* are presented as follows:

- Palmer Park and Riverside Park are the most visited parks by the survey respondents. Traxler, Rockport, and Monterey were also popular parks.
- Most residents are satisfied with the condition of parks in the City. Forty (40) percent of survey respondents reported being very satisfied, and 43 percent reported being somewhat satisfied with parks in the City. This level of satisfaction supports a continuation of the City's current level of services.
- When asked to rate, on a scale of importance, how important park facilities and programs were to them and their families, respondents rated park restrooms, park shelters, and bike trails as the most important facilities. Park restrooms received the most "very important" votes. Respondents tended to rate specialized facilities such as soccer fields as neutral or not applicable, presumably because the respondent and their family do not use a particular facility.
- The majority (58%) of respondents thought current parks, trails, facilities, and programs provided by the City are mostly meeting the needs of the community. Twenty-one (21) percent felt all of the needs of the city are being met, and 18 percent reported needs are being somewhat met.
- Respondents rated facility maintenance (restrooms, park shelters) as the highest maintenance priority. Trash removal and amenity maintenance (playgrounds, picnic tables) were also important. Several respondents commented about geese, geese waste, and dog waste.

In addition to the survey developed for the plan update, a trail user survey conducted in summer 2016 provided valuable feedback regarding priorities and desired improvements. Surveyors along the trail counted users and interviewed roughly one in five trail users. Significant findings of the study are summarized as follows:

- The annual trail usage for 2016 is estimated to be 368,400 trips.
- Ninety-three (93) percent of trail users report their satisfaction with the trail as being either good or very good.
- Condition of the trail surface is becoming more of an issue, compared to similar trail user studies in 2010 and 2013.

These results help to shape and inform the goals, objectives, and strategies presented in this Chapter, as well as the more detailed recommendations provided later in this *Plan*.

B. Goals, Objectives, Strategies

In order to conduct a meaningful and directed planning process, it is important to establish a set of goals, objectives, and strategies that will serve as the basis for the recommendations in this *Plan*.

Goals are broad statements that express general public priorities. Goals are formulated based on the identification of keys issues, opportunities, and problems that affect the park system.

Objectives are more specific than goals and are usually attainable through strategic planning and implementation activities. Implementation of an objective contributes to the fulfillment of a goal.

Strategies are rules and courses of action used to ensure plan implementation. Strategies often accomplish a number of objectives.

The following list of goals, objectives, and strategies is based on the information that has been presented in previous chapters of this *Plan*, including citizen input and discussions amongst City Staff and Leisure Services Advisory Committee members. These serve two basic purposes. First, they provide the foundation upon which a parks and open space system will be developed. Second, they establish the general criteria on which alternatives plans and parks and open space systems will be evaluated.

Goals

1. Ensure the provision of a variety of quality parks, recreational facilities, and open space areas to enhance the health and welfare of City residents and visitors.
2. Preserve the City's and region's natural resources and amenities for the benefit of current and future residents.

Objectives

1. Continue to provide an exemplary level of service related to parks and recreational facilities, maintaining current ratios of parkland and open space in current as well as future neighborhoods.
2. Provide adequate recreational facilities aligned with demand for those facilities.
3. Provide quality public outdoor recreation sites and adequate open space lands for each future neighborhood area in the City.
4. Develop a highly interconnected system of City and Regional parks and open space that maintains and enhances the quality of life in the community – including providing for the health, well-being and safety of residents of the City.
5. Protect areas of special geological, geographical, biological, and historical significance – for instance the Rock River and its shorelines, wetlands, floodplains, woodlands, prairies, Native American sites, and segments of the Ice Age NST.
6. Preserve sensitive environmental and natural resources by focusing low-impact recreational uses in these areas.

7. Increase the diversity of recreational opportunities (active and passive, resource-oriented and non-resource-oriented, water-based and land-based), and ensure that these opportunities are well distributed throughout the City.
8. Provide for a well-integrated network of sidewalks, recreation paths and trails, and bike lanes throughout the City that connect with other facilities in the area.
9. Balance the need to acquire and develop new park and recreational facilities with the need to maintain and upgrade existing park sites and facilities.

Strategies

Location/Service Area/Acreage Standards

1. For all new parks and recreational facilities, follow size and service area standards for new parks, provided in Chapter Four.
2. Ensure that at least one park and recreational facility is within a safe and comfortable walking distance for all Janesville residents, generally within ½ mile.
3. Strive to equitably provide new recreational facilities throughout the City.

Considerations for Neighborhood Planning and Park Design

4. As a component of the City's detailed neighborhood level planning efforts, continue to identify the locations of future parks, open space corridors, and trails to ensure that these areas are included in development proposals.
5. Require new park and open space facilities to be sited in areas identified as *Planned Neighborhood* on the City's Future Land Use Map (adopted as part of the Comprehensive Plan).
6. Site and design neighborhood parks to enhance neighborhood cohesion and provide a common neighborhood gathering place, strongly integrating them into future neighborhood and development design through neighborhood plans, and preliminary plats.
7. Encourage parks to have multiple access points from surrounding neighborhoods.
8. Preserve environmental corridors, natural resource areas, steep slopes, woodlands and forests, shoreland areas, floodplains, riparian habitats, and wetlands as areas for passive and active outdoor recreation and greenbelts, where appropriate.
9. Plan for and implement new bicycle and pedestrian paths in proposed and future development areas consistent with recommendations of this *Park and Open Space Plan* and the 2015-2050 Long Range Transportation Plan.

Transportation, Trails, and Connections

10. Strive to link existing and future parks through a network of trails, bike routes, and open space corridors.
11. Provide pedestrian, bicycle, and/or vehicular access to all parks and recreational facilities, corresponding with the orientation and service area of the park.
12. Connect missing links in the bicycle and pedestrian trail system through acquisition or trail easements. Priority segments are described in Chapter Five.
13. Work toward the development of an urban riverwalk on both sides of the Rock River between Racine Street and Centerway.

14. Develop a Janesville Heritage Trail Loop to coincide with the existing and planned riverfront trail (riverwalk) and off-river trail, spotlighting the unique historical and cultural assets of the City.
15. Promote the Rock River corridor as an environmental corridor of regional significance and work to continue to acquire riverfront park and open space to build an interlinked regional park and open space system.
16. Continue to coordinate with the National Park Service, Ice Age Trail Alliance, and other partners on planning for the Ice Age Trail through Rock County.

New Facilities

17. Continue to develop a diversity of park sizes and types based on the characteristics and needs of individual neighborhoods, and the surrounding land use and natural resource features.
18. Provide a diversity of recreational opportunities to adequately serve different age groups, including youth, teenagers, young adults, families, and senior citizens.
19. Continue to actively pursue the acquisition of riverfront property for park and open space facilities.
20. Identify and work toward acquisition of a site for a future regional park, potentially in collaboration with Rock County, and/or other surrounding jurisdictions.
21. Provide for open space and recreational facilities in Downtown Janesville, consistent with ARISE.
22. Continue to designate, preserve and provide public access to greenbelts along key environmental corridors, and areas supporting recreational corridors and connections.
23. Prioritize the development of new parks, or portions of new or existing parks, to focus on natural resource preservation and passive, nature-based recreation.
24. Participate in, and encourage County participation, in State and regional efforts to connect natural areas of significance through open space preservation – for instance, the Yahara River corridor, to Lake Koshkonong, or to the terminal moraine.

Existing Facilities

25. Maintain and upgrade existing parks and recreational facilities for the safety and convenience of the age groups that use them.
26. Continue to prioritize maintenance of and investment in parks and open spaces in the City's historic and existing neighborhoods as key public gathering places to demonstrate the City's continuing commitment to maintaining the quality of life in these areas.



Peace Park

Access and Service

27. Provide safe and convenient pedestrian and bike connections

between park and open space facilities in line with State and AASHTO standards.

28. Meet compliance with Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) design guidelines, including park design that is barrier-free and accessible to persons with disabilities.

Acquisition and Development Implementation Strategies

29. Identify and acquire land for park and open space in advance of or in coordination with development to provide for reasonable acquisition costs and facilitate site planning.
30. Acquire parklands through land developer dedications, when feasible.
31. Explore various means of acquiring land for parks and for developing park facilities, including impact fees/park improvement fees, parkland dedication requirements, state and federal grants, conservation easements, and non-profit organizations.
32. Consider preparation of a needs assessment for parks fees, and applying park impact fees.
33. Work in collaboration with local school districts to provide parkland and recreation facilities, including exploring the promotion of shared facilities to maximize the efficiency of land use.
34. Work in collaboration with Rock County to provide park and recreational facilities. In particular, regional park and open space facilities.
35. Enforce the park and open space standards and recommendations as outlined in this *Plan* and implemented by the City of Janesville zoning and subdivision ordinances.
36. Encourage and dedicate resources to collaborating with friend's groups for maintenance and improvements to parks and trails.

Promotion of Parks, Recreation and Open Space

37. Encourage public awareness of the City's parks and outdoor recreational facilities by promoting them through maps, social media, signage/wayfinding, and other methods.
38. Embrace the City's parks, recreation and open space system as a key component of the City's quality of life.
39. Consider organizing and promoting the City's parks, recreation, and open space facilities as part of an initiative for health and well-being – leveraging private and outside investment and regional cooperation.

Chapter Four: Analysis of Park and Recreational Facilities

This chapter presents an analysis of how well the City of Janesville's existing park and recreational facilities satisfy current needs in the community. The adequacy of the City's existing park and recreation system will be evaluated in the following ways:

- Establishment of local park and recreational facility service standards for the City;
- An application of local park and recreational facility service standards to reasonable population projections for the City (quantitative analysis);
- A qualitative analysis of the City's park system based on a review of public input and locally expressed demand, understanding of the City's goals and objectives, and an evaluation of the strengths and weaknesses of the existing parkland and recreational system to help shape future direction for the system;
- An analysis of the geographic distribution and accessibility of park and open space areas;
- A review of Wisconsin's State Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan.

The results of this analysis will serve as the basis for the recommendations presented in the next chapter of this *Plan*.

A. Park and Recreation Standards

In order to guide the park planning process, it is important to establish a set of minimum standards for park and recreational facilities. Such standards enable a community to quantitatively measure how well its existing facilities are meeting the needs of residents and to plan for future facilities based on projected population growth. As such, park and recreation standards are commonly expressed as a ratio of the number of minimum acres recommended per 1,000 residents. For example, the National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) recommends that for every 1,000 residents, a community should provide 1 to 2 acres of neighborhood parks.

Although such national standards provide acceptable target guidelines for the provision of parks and open spaces, a more thorough and accurate analysis of Janesville's park system must emphasize the *local* demand for recreational resources. Therefore, a calculation of community-specific standards is more likely to identify those park system deficiencies that would not otherwise be captured by universal standards. Furthermore, a locally-derived standard will do a better job of taking into account the *quality* of the park system considering current levels of service, ongoing desires of residents, and the quantity of park lands provided.

Regional Parks

General Description: A regional park can be described as a facility that meets the active and passive recreational needs of the entire community and attracts users from outside the community. Regional parks include all the facilities of neighborhood and community parks. As a result of their spatial orientation and relationship to other components of the park system, regional parks also function as community and neighborhood parks in the areas where they are located.

Service Area:

- NRPA Standard: Varies
- Local Standard: 2 miles

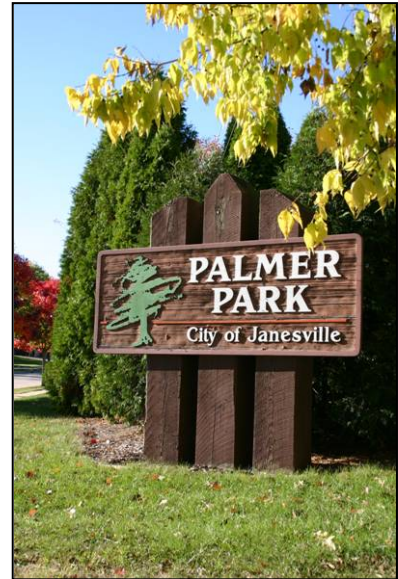
Desirable Size: 75 acres

Acres per 1,000 Population:

- NRPA Standard: 5 – 10 acres
- Local Standard: 8.5 -10 acres

Basic Facilities & Activities:

- Active recreational facilities such as areas for swimming and boating, biking/jogging/skiing trails, athletic playfields, playgrounds, tennis courts, and basketball courts
- Passive recreational facilities such as picnic/sitting areas, and nature study areas
- Dog exercise areas or dog parks
- Sledding hills
- Maintenance buildings and public pavilions that include shelter, storage, and restrooms
- Facilities for cultural activities, such as plays and concerts in the park
- Shade Trees
- Community Center building with multi-use rooms for crafts, theater, restrooms, social activities, and senior adult use
- Lighting for security at night
- Off-street parking spaces in various locations



Palmer Park Sign

Desirable Site Characteristics:

- May include natural areas, such water bodies or wooded areas
- Easily accessible to the neighborhood and larger community
- Accessible by walking or biking

Community Parks

General Description: Community parks provide recreational facilities for both children and adults. These parks include all of the facilities present in neighborhood parks plus additional facilities such as picnic areas, tables and grills, open picnic shelters, restrooms, off-street parking, tennis courts, and a maintenance building. In addition, community parks may include special use facilities such as sports stadiums and winter sports complexes, but they are usually limited by the size of the site. Because community parks include the same facilities as neighborhood parks, they will function as neighborhood parks in areas where they are located.

Service Area:

- NRPA Standard: 0.5 to 3 miles
- Local Standard: 1 mile

Desirable Size: 25-50 acres

Acres per 1,000 Population:

- NRPA Standard: 5 – 8 acres
- Local Standard: 4 acres

Basic Facilities & Activities:

- Active recreational facilities such as areas for swimming and boating, biking/jogging/skiing trails, athletic playfields, playgrounds, tennis courts, and basketball courts
- Passive recreational facilities such as picnic/sitting areas, and nature study areas
- Shade Trees
- Maintenance buildings and public pavilions that include shelter, storage, and restrooms
- Facilities for cultural activities, such as plays and concerts in the park
- Lighting for security at night
- Off-street parking spaces

Desirable Site Characteristics:

- May include natural areas, water bodies or wooded areas
- Easily accessible to the neighborhood population
- Accessible by walking or biking



Traxler Park Playground

Neighborhood Parks

General Description: Neighborhood parks are primarily designed for use by pre-teenage children in the ½ -mile area immediately surrounding the park. They are often characterized by active recreational facilities such as a playground and softball backstop, but can also incorporate passive recreational areas for picnicking and nature-study.

Service Area:

- NRPA Standard: 0.25 to 0.5-mile radius uninterrupted by non-residential roads and other physical barriers
- Local Standard: 0.5-mile radius uninterrupted by non-residential roads and other physical barriers

Desirable Size: 6-12 acres

Acres per 1,000 Population:

- NRPA Standard: 1 – 2 acres
- Local Standard: 2 acres

Basic Facilities & Activities:

- Active recreational facilities such as playfields, basketball courts (half-court), and playgrounds
- Passive recreational facilities such as picnic/sitting areas and nature study areas
- Shade trees
- Signage and trash receptacles
- On-street parking, where appropriate

Desirable Site Characteristics:

- Easily accessible to the neighborhood population
- Accessible by walking or biking

Special Use Facilities

General Description: Areas for specialized or single purpose recreation, such as golf courses, nature centers, and ice arenas are identified as special use facilities under the parks and open space classification system. Special use facilities may be located within community or regional parks and share some of their facilities (e.g. parking, restrooms). They may also stand alone as separate entities that do not share facilities with adjacent parks (e.g. arboretum). Special use facilities play an important role in fulfilling specific outdoor recreational needs of the entire community.

Service Area: Variable – depends on function

Desirable Size: Variable – depends on function

Acres per 1,000 Population: Variable – depends on function

Basic Facilities & Activities:

- Facilities and activities specialized to the site
- Maintenance buildings and public pavilions for shelter, storage, and restrooms
- At select locations, lighting for security at night
- On-street parking, where appropriate

Desirable Site Characteristics:

- Easily accessible to the community
- Accessible by walking or biking



Rotary Garden

Natural Areas, Open Space, and Greenbelts

General Description: The City has numerous areas that do not fit into an active recreation classification but are still critical components of the City's park and open space system. These areas cannot be measured by a quantifiable standard because of their unique and diverse contributions to the community. Natural areas, open space, and greenbelts enhance an overall park and open space system by maintaining and improving the community's natural resource base, accommodating special activities that aren't included in other parks, and providing interconnections between isolated parks and recreation areas.

Examples of Open Space Areas are varied but can include those lands that accommodate passive or special recreational activities, such as sledding hills, boat launches, beaches, native plant restoration, and arboreta, as well as lands that have been protected for their environmental significance or sensitivity and provide limited opportunity for recreational use.

Examples of the latter may include water bodies, floodplains, wetlands, shorelands and shoreland setback areas, drainageways, stormwater management basins, conveyance routes, environmental corridors, wildlife habitats, areas of steep slopes, areas of rare or endangered plant or animal species, prairie remnants, and restoration areas.

Service Area: Variable—depends on function

Desirable Size: Variable—depends on function

Acres Per 1,000 Population:

- NRPA Standard: Varies
- Local Standard: 13 acres

Basic Facilities and Activities: Variable, but some may include:

- Active recreational facilities such as skiing hills, biking/jogging/cross country skiing trails, and sledding hills
- Passive recreational facilities such as walking trails, picnic/sitting areas, and natural study areas
- Signage, trail markers, trash receptacles, information booths
- Off-street parking spaces if appropriate to the area



Greenbelt Sign

Public Elementary School Recreation Areas

General Description: It should be noted that elementary school facilities serve, to a large extent, the same functions as neighborhood parks. The primary importance of elementary schools to the Janesville parks system is that they serve as school playgrounds during school hours and as neighborhood playgrounds after hours. Elementary school acreage is included in Janesville's neighborhood parkland inventory.

Service Area:

- NRPA Standard: Varies
- Local Standard: 0.5-mile radius uninterrupted by non-residential roads and other physical barriers

Desirable Size: Variable – depends on function

Acres per 1,000 Population:

- NRPA Standard: Varies
- Local Standard: Not applicable – depends on school district

Basic Facilities & Activities:

- Active recreational facilities such as playfields, basketball courts, and playgrounds
- Passive recreational facilities such as open space and nature study areas

Desirable Site Characteristics:

- Easily accessible to the neighborhood population
- Accessible by walking or biking

Trails & Other Non-motorized Infrastructure

General Description: Off-street trails, bike lanes, sidewalks, and safe crossings promote active recreation and transportation such as biking, hiking, walking, jogging, nature study, and cross-country skiing. The off-street trail segments and on-street bike routes provide connections between parks and open space lands. This effectively integrates urban and suburban areas with the surrounding natural environment, and creates a well-designed park system.

Concurrent with the update of this *Plan*, the Janesville Area Metropolitan Planning Organization and City adopted the 2015-2050 Janesville Area Long Range Transportation Plan, which includes a Bicycle and Pedestrian Chapter that describes the following facilities in detail, including design guidelines. This section provides descriptions of the different types of recreation trails from the Long Range Transportation Plan and how recommendations will be formulated for each type of trail in this *Park and Open Space Plan*.

The City of Janesville continues to participate as a stakeholder in the National Park Service's efforts to develop a plan to establish the Ice Age Trail as a fully off-road facility through Rock County. The portion of the Ice Age Trail within City limits is off-road with a few small on-road connections. The City provides local knowledge of land use issues and landowners who may be willing to host trail segments. The preferred route is to extend to the west to Gibbs Lake, Evansville, to Magnolia Bluff Park. The preferred route to the east is to Milton and Lima Center.

On-Street Bicycle Facilities

There are three primary types of on-street bicycle facilities: paved shoulders, wide curb lanes, and bicycle lanes. On-street bicycle facilities create a comfortable space for people to bike within the road right-of-way. Paved shoulders are typically used along rural roads without curb and gutter, while wide curb lanes and bike lanes are typically used along urban roads with curb and gutter. Paved shoulders are used along rural roads to provide a safe space for bicyclists. Wide curb lanes give extra clearance between bicyclists and passing motorists and reduce conflicts between through motor traffic and cars entering or leaving driveways. Bicycle lanes, which are dedicated bicycle facilities, are typically installed on roadways with higher traffic speeds and volumes. Bicycle lanes are typically designated through the use of signs or painted symbols and motor vehicle parking restrictions.

Treatment in this *Plan*: This *Plan* presents recommendations regarding locations for future on-street bicycle facilities based on the Janesville Area Long Range Transportation Plan. See that Plan for more information.

Multi-Use Trail

Multi-use trails accommodate a variety of users, from bikers to inline skaters, or walkers.

They are two-way facilities that physically separate users from motor vehicle traffic, normally by utilizing open

space as a buffer. They are typically 10-feet wide and constructed of asphalt. Multi-use trails are appropriate for abandoned railroad lines, greenbelts, and along graded riverbanks but rarely along urban roadways where numerous driveways and intersections create potential for conflict between non-motorized users and vehicles.



Paved Recreation Trail

Treatment in this *Plan*: This *Plan* presents recommendations regarding locations for future multi-use trails facilities as shown on Map 5. See the Janesville Area Long Range Transportation Plan for more formal and detailed recommendations.

Off-Road Trails

There are a wide array of off-road trail uses and types. The trails are intended for uses such as mountain biking, hiking, cross-country skiing, as well as recreational running and walking. Off-road trails can be constructed with asphalt, crushed limestone, wood chips, or packed earth. The width varies by location.

Treatment in this *Plan*: This *Plan* presents recommendations regarding locations for future multi-use trails facilities through improvements to individual parks as appropriate.

Trailheads

General Description: Trailheads can provide visible access points to the community's major off-road trails. They generally provide a parking area, locational and directional maps, or other

information about the trail system. Some might contain restroom facilities, picnic tables, or benches for snacks or breaks. Such facilities should be sited with easy and direct access to the trail system.

Treatment in this *Plan*: This *Plan* will make general recommendations regarding the future location of trailheads. Suggestions will be based upon both existing and proposed park facilities and parking locations.

Desirable Design Criteria: Varies

Number of Facilities Per 1,000 Population: Varies

B. Quantitative Analysis

The following chart presents a comparison of NRPA's park and recreation standards (acres per 1,000 persons) to the City's existing park system. As indicated in Table 4, the City currently has approximately 42 acres of parkland for every 1,000 residents, including public elementary school recreation areas. In general, NRPA standards recommend a minimum of 11 acres of parkland per 1,000 residents. However, it is not uncommon for communities to maintain higher levels of service for parklands based on local demand for certain types of parks or facilities, historic levels of service, and priorities and expectations of residents. Therefore, the City of Janesville has determined that a local standard would be most appropriate to reflect its desire to continue to provide an exceptional level of service. The local standard in Table 5 will be applied to determine future park acreage need in the City.

Table 4: Park Acreage Analysis, 2016

Park Type	NRPA Standard (Acres per 1,000 Persons)	Recommended Acreage based on NRPA Standards (acres per 1,000 persons*)	Existing Janesville Park Acreage	
			2016 Total Acres	2016 Acres Provided per 1,000 Persons*
Regional Parks	5 – 10 acres	314 – 627	620	10
Community Parks	5 – 8 acres	314 – 502	213	3
Neighborhood Parks	1 – 2 acres	63 – 125	115	2
Special Use Facilities	Varies	Varies	810	13
Natural Areas, Open Space, and Greenbelts	Varies	Varies	817	13
Public Elementary School Recreation Areas	Varies	Varies	83	1
Total City Parks and Schools	11 – 20 acres	691 – 1,254	2,663	42

* Based on 2015 population estimate of 63,510

Table 5: Janesville Local Standard, 2016

Park Type	Local Standard (Acres Per 1,000 Persons)
Regional Parks	8.5 – 10*
Community Parks	4
Neighborhood Parks	1
Special Use Facilities	Varies
Natural Areas, Open Space, and Greenbelts	13

* The regional park standard of 8.5 – 10 acres recognizes the existing excess capacity available in this category.

Population Projections

Prediction of the rate of future population growth is challenging and somewhat inexact. Actual future population will depend on market conditions, attitudes toward growth, and development regulations. This *Plan* uses the population projection used in the 2015-2050 Long Range Transportation Plan. These projections were developed by the WI Department of Administration.

Table 6: Population Projections

2010	2020	2030	2040	2050
63,575	67,500	72,100	74,100	75,900

Sources: U.S. Census Bureau (2010 data); WI Department of Administration

C. Geographic Analysis

The location and distribution of parks and recreational facilities also provide a good indicator of how well the existing park system is meeting the needs of the City's residents. To illustrate this distribution, Map 2 depicts the service areas of the City's existing neighborhood and community parks. These service areas are based on the local standards identified in the Park and Recreation Standards section of this *Plan*.

An analysis of Map 2 suggests that neighborhood parklands in the City are currently fairly well distributed and within a reasonable walking distance for most City residents. However, some areas in the central and eastern portions of the City are not within one-half of a mile of a neighborhood park, or the service area boundary is interrupted by a pedestrian barrier, such as a major arterial road. For the purpose of this analysis, elementary school recreation areas, and community parks also function as neighborhood parks since they also serve the surrounding areas. In addition, this map depicts the conceptual locations of future neighborhood parks and elementary schools and their associated future service area. These parks are dispersed throughout planned growth areas to serve future residents.

As the City continues to grow, it will be necessary to acquire additional parklands so future residents have equitable access to all types of parklands and open space.

D. Climate Change Mitigation and Climate Change Resiliency

Climate change impacts, such as more frequent and intense weather events, pose a considerable threat to the City of Janesville. The Janesville area has experienced several Rock River flood events in the last decade, including a flood in 2008 that exceeded the 100-year event. The City of Janesville has invested considerable resources into emergency preparedness and resiliency in the last few years. Actions taken include purchase of properties along the Rock River and removal of structures in the floodplain, storm water improvements, and training of staff in emergency management and emergency response.

Janesville's park and open space resources play a vital role in mitigating future climate change and improving resiliency. Current strategies include diversifying and increasing the urban tree canopy, prioritizing acquisition of riverfront properties, and preservation of natural hydrology through greenbelt dedication. Future strategies may include recommendations for specific tree species resilient to Midwest climate change, new or higher standards for engineering design of bridges and other infrastructure within parks or new and/or more resilient storm water facilities. Future park plans, neighborhood plans, or published best practices may provide specific direction regarding mitigation and resiliency.

E. Community Garden Suitability Analysis

Many U.S. communities encourage and support community gardens on public lands; Janesville has three gardens on public land although only one is located in a city park. Community gardens strengthen neighborhood identity, increase access to healthy fresh food, and some evidence indicates gardens reduce crime rates. This section offers parameters for suitability of community gardens in Janesville.

Community gardens are most likely to be established in neighborhood and community parks, although gardens could be appropriate in regional parks or greenbelts if they do not conflict with other activities. Optimum site characteristics include flat and walkable terrain, abundant sun exposure, and access to water. Other considerations may include presence of black walnut trees that inhibit growth of certain vegetables, visibility for policing purposes, parking, and seating. If land use history indicates a potential for soil contamination, raised beds may be installed to avoid health risks. Downtown Janesville and central city neighborhoods like the 4th Ward, Look West, and Courthouse Hill have poorer access to fresh food outlets, and would benefit the most from community gardens.

F. Analysis of Wisconsin Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP)

The last component of this needs assessment involves a review of the State of Wisconsin's 2011-2016 Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan, prepared by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources. As described in the Background Information section of this *Plan*, recreation supply shortages for the Southern Gateway Planning Region were taken into consideration when developing the recommendations for this *Plan*. The SCORP identifies the following developed recreation supply shortages in the region: boat launches, educational camps, dog parks, ice skating rinks, nature centers, picnic areas, sailboat clubs/rentals, tennis courts and programs, and bicycle trails.

It is important to understand that there are likely to be widely varying local needs within each district due to differences in physical geography, local supply of recreational facilities, and local interests. These recreation supply shortages are only one indicator of needs in an area comprised of several counties and should, therefore, be used only as a guide in the decision making process. In reviewing the recreation supply shortages identified as part of the SCORP, it is evident that the City of Janesville significantly contributes to certain demands in the region. For example, the City-wide bicycle and pedestrian trail system provides recreation for people who enjoy hiking, walking, running, bicycling and/or in-line skating activities. In addition, the City's recreation system includes dog exercise areas, a fenced dog park, ice skating rink, and boat launches on the Rock River.

G. Qualitative Analysis

Although quantitative standards provide a good basis for formulating the recommendations in this *Plan*, a thorough assessment of the City's existing facilities and system must include a more subjective analysis that takes into consideration what makes Janesville unique from other communities, as well expressed by the City's priorities, as well as its unique assets and challenges. A qualitative analysis:

- Considers locally expressed priorities for the parks and open space system and ensures that future parks and recreational facilities are tailored to meet the needs of City residents;
- Identifies those park system assets and challenges that are not captured by numeric standards; and
- Allows for the establishment of a more reasonable and specialized level of service range by which the City can plan its future park and recreational system.

Through the Comprehensive Plan's public participation process, the public identified several areas of the City's existing park system, which could be expanded or strengthened. The Goals, Objectives, and Strategies section of this *Plan* includes a list of the key results. This information for this analysis is based on these public participation efforts from the Comprehensive Plan process (e.g. community survey, vision workshops, focus groups and interviews), outreach conducted specifically through this *Park and Open Space Plan* development process, and input from City staff and Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee members.

The following identifies key challenges and assets pertaining to the system that can be addressed through the future directions provided by this *Plan*.

Challenges that were identified through the planning process are listed below; these are addressed through the policies and recommendations of this *Plan*:

- Balancing the desire to expand the park and recreational system and continuing current service levels with budget constraints.
- Ensuring ongoing maintenance in existing parks.
- Ensuring the continued functionality of future neighborhood parks by increasing the size standards.
- Providing opportunities for active recreation in natural areas, open space, and greenbelts, as appropriate.
- Providing opportunities for nature-based activities in existing and future parks.
- Connecting isolated trail segments and providing connections to new neighborhood areas.
- Continuing to provide indoor and outdoor recreational opportunities and amenities for all ages.
- Locate future Special Recreational Facilities to facilitate investment in all areas of the City, while considering site and location opportunities and challenges.
- Working with neighboring and overlapping units of government – including the County, School District to maximize efficiency of services and range of offerings, while not duplicating services.

Key assets that can be expanded upon and leveraged include:



Silver Queen 1939 - 1949

- Exceptional level of service provided in terms of acreage of park and open space lands per 1,000 residents (exceeds national standards and leads State).
- High levels of resident satisfaction with the quality of parks, and the recreational offerings.
- Most neighborhoods are well-served by neighborhood parks.
- Diversity of facilities and amenities in existing community and regional parks.
- A unique array of special use facilities – including the Ice Center, Rotary Gardens, the Arboretum, Youth Sports Facility, and community golf courses.
- The Rock River corridor and opportunities to continue to promote parkland and recreational use in and along the River.
- An extensive and well-used bicycle and pedestrian trail network, including a portion of the Ice Age NST.
- Nearly 800 acres of Natural Areas, Open Space and Greenbelts, which contribute significantly to the aesthetic and ecological integrity of the City, and function as important recreational trail corridors for residents of Janesville, and address the need for passive recreational opportunities within the City.
- Recognition of Janesville as “Wisconsin’s Park Place.”
- Recognition of Janesville as a Bird City, Tree City, and Ice Age Trail Community.
- Part of a broader regional system of notable natural features – the Rock River and terminal moraine, for example.

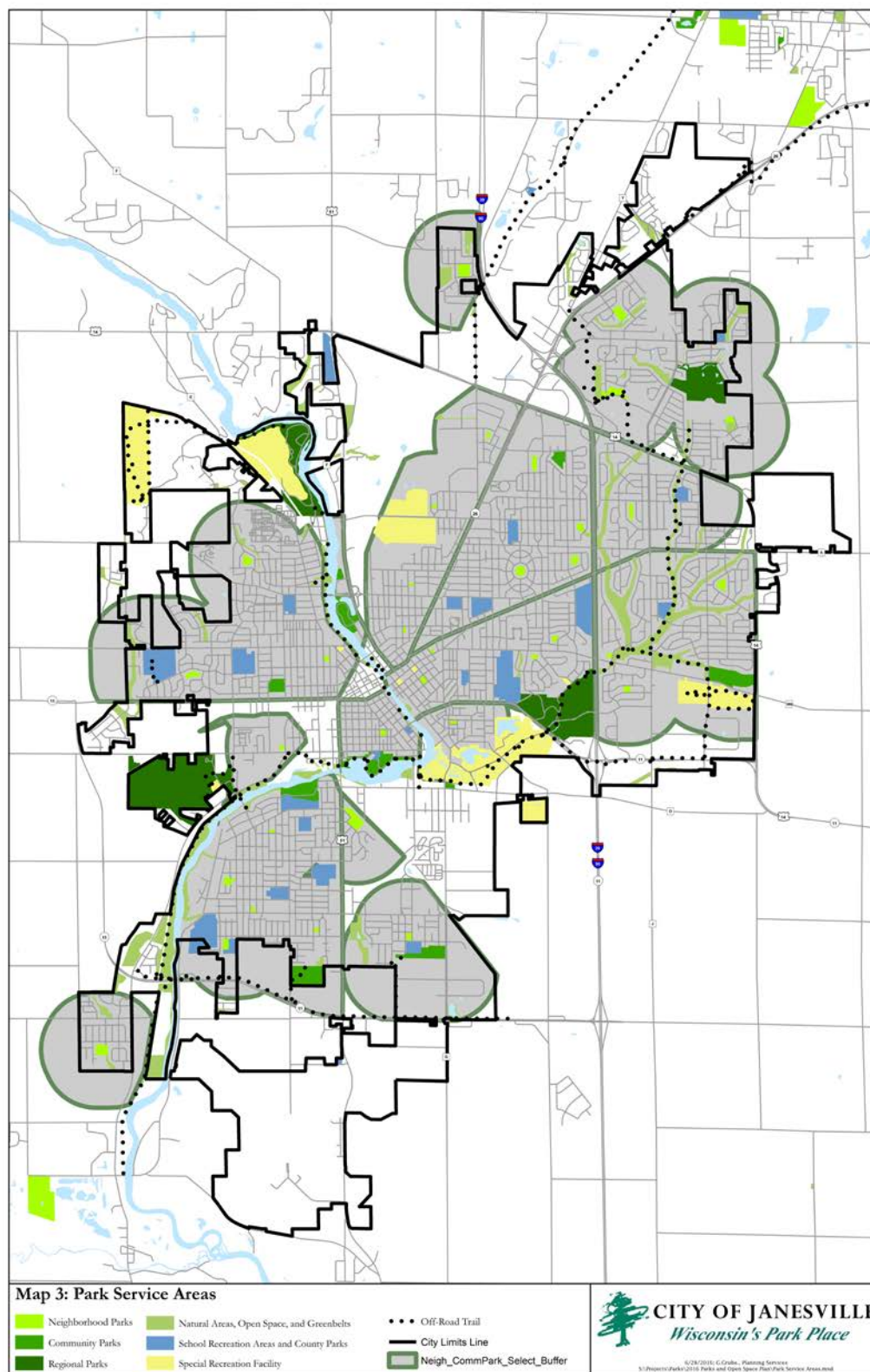
Both challenges and assets can provide positive direction to the City.

PARK, OPEN SPACE, AND RECREATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES FOR JANESVILLE

The opportunities below will leverage the City's unique assets, while addressing challenges for the future. These opportunities are expanded upon in the following Recommendations Chapter.

- ◆ Continue to provide excellent levels of service through neighborhood, community, and regional parks.
- ◆ Promote larger neighborhood parks to more effectively serve new neighborhoods, and provide for more efficient delivery of service.
- ◆ Enhance open space and recreational offerings along the Rock River through acquisition of open space, development of an urban riverwalk, linking disconnected trail segments, and promoting recreational activities in the River.
- ◆ Preserve natural areas through establishment of areas devoted to preservation, as well as incorporating natural areas into community and regional parks.
- ◆ Expand and connect the City's outstanding pedestrian and bicycle trail system, including completion of the Ice Age Trail Corridor loop around the City.
- ◆ Partner with the school districts and Rock County to provide for park and recreational facilities, including the exploration of shared facilities.
- ◆ Connect City park and recreational facilities with broader regional environmental and open space assets – including the Rock River corridor and the terminal moraine.
- ◆ Within existing and future parks, provide activities and facilities to appeal to residents of all ages as well as a range of diverse groups– reflecting the demographic dynamics of the City.

Map 3: Existing Park Service Areas – Community and Neighborhood Parks



Chapter Five: Future Park, Open Space, and Recreational Facilities Recommendations

A. Future Park and Open Space Needs

Based upon the analyses provided in this chapter, the City's future local standard for total active and passive park acreage is between 26.5 and 28¹ acres per 1,000 persons, 8.5 - 10 acres per 1,000 persons for regional parks, 4 acres per 1,000 persons for community parks, 1 acre per 1,000 persons for neighborhood parks, 13 acres per 1,000 persons for natural areas, open spaces, and greenbelts. Based on these standards, Tables 7 and 8 show the additional park acreage that will be needed to accommodate the City's projected population in 2025 (69,800) and in 2040 (74,100) assuming a continuation of the current level of service. Implementation of land acquisition and development will depend on local funding availability, grants, land dedications, and donations.

Table 7: Park Acreage Needs, 2025

Park Type	Local Standard (Acres Per 1,000 persons)	Recommended 2025 Acreage based on Acres per 1,000 persons*	2016 Total Acres	Additional Acres Needed by 2025
Regional Parks	8.5-10	593-698	620	0-78
Community Parks	4	279	213	66
Neighborhood Parks	1	70	115	-45
Special Use Facilities	Varies	--	900	--
Natural Areas, Open Space, and Greenbelts	13	907	816	91
Total¹	26.5-28	1,849-1,954	2,664	112-190

* Based on 2025 projected population (69,800)

¹ The total does include special use facilities.

Table 8: Park Acreage Needs, 2040

Park Type	City Standard Acres Per 1,000 persons	Recommended 2040 Acreage based on Acres per 1,000 persons*	2016 Total Acres	Additional Acres Needed by 2040
Regional Parks	8.5-10	613-721	620	0-101
Community Parks	4	288	213	75
Neighborhood Parks	1	72	115	-43
Special Use Facilities	Varies	--	900	--
Natural Areas, Open Space, and Greenbelts	13	937	816	121
Total²	26.5-28	1,910-2,018	2,580	153-254

* Based on 2040 projected population (74,100)

B. Recommended Additional Parkland

The preceding chapters compared local parkland standards against national standards and found that overall, the City provides more parkland and open space per person than is recommended by the national standards. The City of Janesville has sufficient regional parkland to meet the city's existing and possibly future needs. The City also has abundant neighborhood parks and will not experience a deficit of neighborhood park acreage in the next few decades. Tables 7 and 8 show a surplus of neighborhood parkland and a deficit in community parkland. This analysis indicates future acquisition should focus on the development of an additional community park, as population grows and funding opportunities arise.

The following section will examine the City's parkland needs over the next ten-years and recommend parkland additions in keeping with expected population growth and the expected parkland needs per capita, as identified in the preceding chapters of this Plan. Over the next 10 years this Plan recommends focusing on maintenance and improvement of existing parks and open spaces while considering addition of acreage where feasible. Based upon 2025 population projections, these recommendations would satisfy the City's park and open space standards. The timing of parkland acquisitions and development should coincide with the actual demand for recreational facilities in the City's developed and newly developing areas.

Future Additional Parklands

Map 3 shows approximate locations for future City parks over the next 10 years. More precise park boundaries will be determined when lands are acquired or platted, and during the preparation of detailed Neighborhood Plans. Following are general descriptions of the *Plan's* recommendations for additional park and open space lands.

² Total does not include special use facilities.

Regional Parks

Historically, the City has taken a proactive approach to obtaining regional parkland in advance of anticipated need. This has allowed the City to acquire land prior to development when land is more reasonably priced. At this time, the City's regional parks contain enough land area to meet the present, as well as the projected need over the next 10 years. It is recommended that the City examine opportunities to more fully utilize existing regional parks prior to the acquisition of a new regional park. It may be appropriate to acquire lands adjoining existing regional parks from willing sellers in order to facilitate greater access to the parks and support improvements to or expansion of facilities.

Riverside Park

This 97-acre park was developed in the 1920's & 1930's. This project involves the potential acquisition of private property from willing sellers at the south and northwest ends of Riverside Park. Purchases would remove unsightly structures to accommodate trails and enhance public access to the Park.

Northeast Regional Park

This unique area is currently 88 acres in size. It contains remnants of the undisturbed terminal moraine of the Wisconsin Glacier and is part of the City's general plan for parkland expansion. In order to better serve residents in this rapidly growing section of the community, the park should be increased to approximately 100 acres through land dedication and platting. Efforts should be made to create the connections needed to allow the Ice Age NST to pass through the park and continue on to the north.

Rockport Park

This 268-acre park has a number of private properties that intrude on the perimeter of the park and prevent potential development of trails, facilities and other related uses. To provide the best use of this park, the City of Janesville should take steps to purchase contiguous properties from willing sellers as funds permit. There is also the potential for connecting this park to other city-owned properties to the west and north through purchase of property and/or easements.

Regional Park between Janesville and Neighboring Communities

In the future there may be the potential for the City of Janesville to work in collaboration with Rock County, Beloit, and/or Milton to establish regional park facilities between Janesville and its neighboring communities on the north, south or east side of the City. Should an opportunity present itself that is amenable and advantageous to all jurisdictions involved, it is recommended that the City pursue such a facility in the interest of shared uses, financing and maintenance. The location of shared use facilities has not been determined, but some potential locations for consideration include: the area south of airport, along STH 26 on Janesville's north side, and the area commonly referred to as Mt. Zion, located east of the City.

Community Parks

The section above identifies a need for an additional 66 acres of community parkland by 2025, although the plan also acknowledges the abundance of neighborhood and regional parkland create an overall surplus of parkland within the City. It is recommended that the City identify one potential new community park on the west side, and one on the east side. These new facilities should range between 20 and 30 acres in size, and the location of each will be based on need and land availability. These sites will be developed with the primary purpose of meeting active recreational needs. They

could potentially contain play fields, picnic areas, tables and grills, open picnic shelters, restrooms, tennis courts, and a maintenance building.

Traxler Park

Traxler Park is recognized as one of the primary “Special Event” parks in Janesville’s system. Although the park is 37 acres in size, it contains limited open space and insufficient parking for the events held there. The ARISE Plan addresses these needs and proposes a concept to increase the size of this park through acquisition along the riverfront as well as redevelopment of the area bounded by Parker Drive, Centerway, and the railroad. The ARISE concept links Traxler Park to the downtown area along the riverfront via a continuous pedestrian parkway. The ARISE Plan recognizes the Traxler Park Plan concept is a long-range vision likely to be implemented over many years.

Traxler Park: North. The City has acquired the Westphal Electric property and other waterfront properties fronting on Water Street and facing the river. These properties provide additional parkland for nature based recreation, provide additional public access to the river, and improve the connection to the rest of Traxler Park.

Blackhawk Creek Corridor

This area along the Blackhawk Creek is immediately east of USH 14 and north of County Trunk MM. This portion of the creek and surrounding drainage way includes features characteristic of Optimist Park with fairly wide, flat areas of land within the floodplain, which limit its potential use outside of parkland. The area also includes a naturally occurring pond, feed by a spring. These scenic, natural areas adjoining the drainage basin should be developed as an extension of Optimist Park, with recreation fields, and native plantings and habitats.

Neighborhood Parks

The recommended size for the creation of new neighborhood parks is 6-12 acres. Neighborhood parks serve a population within a one-half mile radius. Recommended locations for future community and neighborhood parks are identified on Map 4.

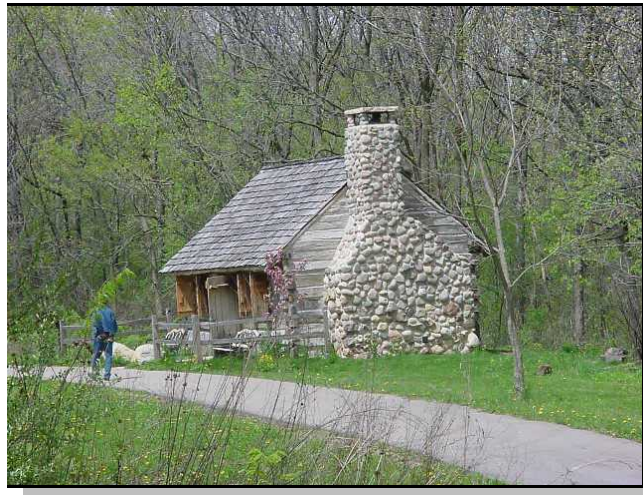
The 2008 *Park and Open Space Plan* was prepared concurrently with, and as a detailed component of, the City of Janesville 2008 Comprehensive Plan. As part of that planning effort, the City prepared a Future Land Use Map, which suggests how to accommodate future land use demand within the supply of lands potentially available for development. One of the categories on the Future Land Use Map is “Planned Neighborhood.” The “Planned Neighborhood” future land use category is intended to provide for a variety of housing choices and a mix of non-residential uses such as parks, schools, religious institutions, and small-scale shopping and service areas. Map 4 includes conceptual locations for future parks in these Planned Neighborhood areas at the periphery of the City. The exact location of these parks will be determined when development occurs.

The sizes of, and improvements in these future parks should conform to the standards identified in Chapter 4. When possible, the City should work with the applicable school district to see if it is appropriate to site neighborhood parks next to existing or proposed school sites in order to create shared open space and joint uses. The acquisition of land for park and open space will coincide with development of adjacent lands, ensuring an equitable distribution of parks and recreational facilities throughout the community into the future.

A number of neighborhood parks are less than 2 acres in size and therefore substandard in terms of providing adequate open play space. Occasionally, nearby residents are impacted by activities occurring in these small parks due to their proximity and limited buffering capabilities. Examples of such parks include: Adams Park, Greendale Park, Industrial Park, Rushmore Park, Pershing Park, Prairie Park, Ruger Park and Washington Park. This *Plan* recommends that any time residential property adjacent to a substandard neighborhood park is placed on the market; the City should evaluate the potential of acquiring the property in order to expand the size of the park.

Special Use Facilities

Special use facilities vary in size and purpose. In general, they play an important role in fulfilling specific outdoor recreational needs of the entire community. Map 4 shows the special use facility additions recommended over the next 10 years. When property that supports a need within an existing special use facility, or land that will create a new special use facility becomes available for purchase, through deed, or platting, this *Plan* recommends that the City acquire the land.



1840's Log Cabin at Arboretum

Town Square

The Parking Plaza in downtown Janesville will be removed in late 2016/early 2017. In its place the City and partners will create the Town Square as envisioned in ARISE between 2017-2020. The Town Square will be an attractive destination with a focus on the Rock River. The Town Square includes a Great Lawn public gathering space, pedestrian bridge, river access and dock, re-aligned and enhanced Ice Age Trail, storm water improvements, pavilions and interactive water feature. Since the adoption of ARISE in December 2015, a workgroup of property owners, staff, and consultants has further refined the Town Square concept into biddable engineering plans. The Town Square is the near-term priority park and recreation development.

Kiwanis Pond

A private residence exists on the northeast corner of Sharon Road and South Randall Avenue which provides a visual intrusion into this general park area. This Plan recommends acquisition or acceptance of this property and the removal of the residence to eliminate a potentially conflicting public/private interface and further enhance the adjacent Rotary Gardens, Kiwanis Pond and Blackhawk Golf Course Parkway.

Landfill

The City has a unique amenity available to it in the form of its capped landfill sites. Once a section of the landfill has been filled and capped it can provide those in an otherwise urban area access to hitherto unavailable park and recreational opportunities. This Plan recommends that when appropriate, landfill cells should be filled, graded and capped to maximize their potential for future use as park and recreation areas. Some of the potential uses to be considered are: picnic spots, off-

road bike trails, prairie plantings, dog exercise areas or a dog park, an aeromodeling field, nature observance areas, an outdoor study area for the local schools, and disc golf courses.

Arboretum

The Arboretum is a beautiful wooded natural area, with planned trail connections. As adjoining lands develop, additional parkland should be obtained through dedication or purchase, with emphasis given to lands along Marsh Creek and its tributaries.

Additional Athletic Fields

The existing Youth Sports Complex will be fully built out and at capacity within the planning period. This Plan identifies the need to provide additional land area to accommodate athletic fields and parking to all user groups.

Mt. Zion

This area is generally recognized as the highest elevation point in Rock County. The property is located east of the City between Henke Road and Milton Shopiere Road, north of CTH A. It is situated along the Johnstown Terminal Moraine, a well-defined natural feature marking the southernmost extent of the latest glacial encroachment into Wisconsin. Consideration should be given to acquisition of property within the general vicinity of these natural features to fulfill anticipated regional parkland needs as well as preserve this unique natural area for the future. Park development in this area could facilitate the creation of bikeways and trails back to the city along the terminal moraine.

Spauldings Pond Area

Spauldings Pond is located just to the east of Harmony Town Hall Road along E. Rotamer Road. The area encompassing Spauldings Pond and the adjacent Camp Rotamer is recognized as a unique natural resource containing an array of environmentally sensitive features. This Plan acknowledges the distinct environmental characteristics of this area and the need to protect this resource in its current state. In order to achieve this outcome, the Plan recommends the future acquisition of the Spauldings Pond area for public use, benefit, and protection.

Natural Areas, Open Space, and Greenbelts

As the City of Janesville grows, environmentally sensitive lands and unique preservation areas in the path of development should be acquired or protected. Unique interest areas include areas of special geological, archeological, historical or ecological significance and because of this they should be protected as public open space to allow the public to enjoy and learn from these areas, and facilitate their long-term preservation. The environmentally sensitive areas and areas of preservation are shown as greenbelts, river frontage, and conservation overlays in Map 4. The *Plan* recommends adding a total of 121 acres of natural areas, open space, and greenbelts by 2040.

Greenbelts. Greenbelts serve the vital functions of: facilitating surface water runoff, providing areas for ground water recharge and preserving sensitive environmental areas including bluffs, severe slopes, stands of trees and significant plant and animal communities. They have also become a recreation amenity to the community, satisfying passive and active recreation needs by accommodating multi-purpose trails and minor park development on larger fringe areas. Greenbelts, in effect, often tie park components together thus providing the community with a resource based outdoor recreational opportunity and experience. Greenbelts and parks should be planned in

conjunction to allow benefits from joint uses. However, greenbelts should not take the place of formal recreational and open space needs in neighborhoods that are deficient in such facilities. When possible, greenbelt land should be acquired in conjunction with the platting of land and they should be evaluated for improvements such as recreation trails, both paved and unpaved, as well as nature study areas, benches, and trash receptacles. The proposed greenbelt extensions are shown on Map 4.

Riverfront Properties. This Plan incorporates the recommendations contained in the ARISE Plan, which focuses on six catalytic properties along the Rock River. The continuation of the Rock River Parkway corridor should be a high priority within the parks system. Land along the Rock River should continue to be acquired both by purchase and dedication to allow the City to preserve as much of the Rock River shoreline and abutting property as possible. Ownership of the shore land enables the City to increase public access and control buildings, boat landings, filling of the waterway, unauthorized dredging, dumping, erosion, runoff, and beautification, which are all essential in enabling the community to use the Rock River to its fullest potential. It is the recommendation of this Plan that the City moves forward with any and all riverfront projects as properties along the river become available. Examples of target riverfront properties are provided below.

- *North Main Street/ Traxler Park Expansion.* North Main Street runs parallel to the River, creating many opportunities for riverfront expansion. The primary target area is between Traxler Park and Centerway. Within this district there are many aging industrial and commercial properties that impede public access to the River, and in various cases the structures are in the floodplain, which limits the land's redevelopment potential. The ARISE Plan presents a concept plan and action steps that includes new recreational features and compatible redevelopment while addressing environmental contamination and floodplain concerns.



Downtown Riverwalk

- *River Street Riverfront.* This acquisition is intended to provide a continuation of the downtown river walkway from the Milwaukee Street Bridge to the Jackson Street Bridge. The City has provided improvements between Milwaukee Street and Centerway. This riverfront corridor will accommodate the Ice Age NST. Riverfront properties between Milwaukee Street and the Jackson Street Bridge, or portions of these properties, should be acquired as they become available.
- *Afton Road Rock River Parkway.* The Rock River Parkway, located between the Rock River and Afton Road, encompasses just over 200 acres and stretches approximately 4 miles in length. The Parkway provides public access to a portion of the Rock River between Rockport Road and Eau Claire Road. A paved recreational trail, known as the 'Peace Trail', follows the river for approximately 3 miles. This trail has been developed, in part, on a former railroad grade along

the northern two miles of the parkway. Acquisition is recommended for properties with reversionary clauses including other residential and commercial property along the parkway's waterfront. Rock and Beloit Townships, the City of Beloit and/or Rock County seek acquisition or easement of the seven remaining miles of abandoned railway to link Janesville to Beloit. Acquisition will be with willing sellers only, without any condemnation. This trail, when linked with the City trail network and the Ice Age NST, will have state-wide and regional significance by providing a path into Beloit and connecting to Northern Illinois.

- *Water Street Riverfront & East River Walkway.* The City proposes to extend the East River Walkway from the Town Square (Milwaukee Street Bridge) south to Racine Street. The ARISE Plan indicates this area is ideal for new housing along the Rock River. The Riverwalk would enhance use of the Hedberg Public Library as well as the downtown business district.
- *Former Panoramic Site.* This site contains the oldest continuously operated industrial building in the City. The property is located west of the Monterey Dam on the north side of the Rock River. The Panoramic building has been purchased and is being revitalized with new business tenants. The City currently owns 17 acres between the building and the river. Additional acreage to the east of the building could provide additional riverfront access and potential satellite parking for park access.

Conservation Areas. When developing a balanced park system, natural areas are as important as active recreation areas. The City should consider formally establishing parks that are intended to remain in their natural state. These areas would be minimally developed with improvements such as hiking trails and wildlife viewing areas.

Areas of unique environmental significance are commonly distributed throughout the City's existing parks, greenbelts and other open spaces, and they should be preserved in their natural state whenever feasible. Environmentally significant areas may include features such as lakes, rivers, streams, wetlands, and their associated undeveloped shore lands, floodplains, prairies, significant woodlands, hydric soils, or areas of steep slopes. In order to ensure that this occurs, the *Plan* recommends consideration be given to establishing criteria that limits development of recreational improvements, intensity of use, and maintenance practices within these areas. The City should work to establish an ordinance that formally identifies the City's overall approach to conserving/protecting these areas.

Recreation Trails

The trail system is one of the City's most-used recreation amenities. It is heavily utilized by walkers, joggers, bicyclists, and inline skaters. Historically this system has consisted of off-road paved trails situated within natural areas; thus separating trail users from motor vehicles. The City has 11 miles of on-street bike lanes and plans to construct an additional 11 miles to improve non-motorized travel. This *Plan* recommends expanding the recreation trail system as shown on Map 5. The proposed trail projects will expand and fill in the gaps in the existing recreation trail network, and improve trail linkages between parkland, residents, and major destinations.

The City will make use of existing and future utility corridors, greenbelts, abandoned railroad, or dedicated easements to accommodate future trails whenever possible. The trail system will be strategically planned so that it provides a link between existing and future parks and open space areas, and major destinations. The City's near term priorities are to connect missing links in the downtown.

The Ice Age NST is a thousand-mile-long trail located entirely within Wisconsin. It is one of only eight National Scenic Trails in the United States. Currently, more than 600 miles are completed. The Janesville segment of the Ice Age NST began in 1985 with City Council approval of a 2.6 mile trail segment from Palmer Park through the greenbelt system north to USH 14. Today there are over 9 miles of Ice Age NST in the City. The Ice Age NST is a special amenity within Rock County and it should be supported within Janesville. The City collaborates future planning for the Ice Age Trail with the National Park Service.

Elementary School Recreation Areas

Elementary school facilities serve, to a large extent, the same functions as neighborhood parks. Map 3 shows the location of existing and future elementary school locations. This *Plan* recommends that additional elementary school sites also be identified as part of planned neighborhoods and when possible, neighborhood parks be located adjacent to these sites to benefit from joint use of these facilities.

C. Recreational Improvements to Existing Parks

In addition to the recommendations in the previous sections, which mainly focus on the acquisition of additional parkland areas in the City, this section of the *Plan* recommends improvements to existing park and open space facilities over the next ten years.

General Recommendations

- The City should continue to work towards creating a comprehensive and diverse parks and open space system that fosters the unique attributes and opportunities of each facility.
- Promote civic group “adoption” of parks to assist in acquisition, development, and maintenance of park facilities, especially for unique properties. I.e. Kiwanis Pond, Rockport Park, Rotary Gardens, Riverside Park, the Arboretum and others.
- Examine and expand upon recreation opportunities in existing park and open space areas as appropriate.
- The City should continue to emphasize the provision of areas and facilities that support recreational activities for a broad range of ages and abilities, rather than facilities geared only toward team sports or certain age groups.
- Update the City’s land dedication and fees-in-lieu of dedication regulations to more specifically define the quantity of parkland a developer must provide (or amount of fees to be paid in lieu of dedication). This will streamline future negotiations with developers and will ensure that dedication requirements are fair and equitable.
- Complete necessary upgrades to bring all park and recreation facilities into compliance with ADA regulations.
- Ensure consistent signage throughout parks.

Specific Improvements

Rockport Park

This is a large regional park with multiple recreation facilities. There is a swimming pool, hiking trails, mountain bike trails, cross country ski trails, and soccer field. Peace Park playground, a fully accessible ADA facility, is also located within Rockport Park. It is recommended that the City consider the following improvements to Rockport Park:

- Expand upon the existing active recreational facilities by improving park signage that guides park users to the multitude of facilities throughout park and upgrading unpaved trail signage to minimize user conflicts.
- Improve access to the southwest area of the park via a parking lot.
- Extend the paved bike trail from the park to connect to the west side residential areas north of Rockport Road.
- Should the opportunity present itself, purchase a portion of useable land from the Moose Club.
- Create a special use area for an archery park.

Riverside Park

Riverside Park is the City's first regional park and was originally developed in the 1920's & 1930's. It is bounded by the Rock River on the east, and the Riverside Community Golf Course on the west. There are play areas, recreation fields, restrooms, splashpad, a natural artesian well, and a portion of the Ice Age NST. It is recommended that the City consider the following improvements to Riverside Park:

- The existing pavilions in Palmer Park are scheduled to capacity during peak summer usage. Consideration should be given to constructing an additional large capacity pavilion in Riverside Park that will provide picnic opportunities and meet the needs of large groups. A large pavilion, or two or more smaller pavilions, along with restrooms, would provide the additional reservation capacity needed by the residents of Janesville.
- Provide support services to accommodate the Ice Age NST.
- Improve riverwall support to reduce erosion to the park.
- Explore possible re-use of the former wading pool area.

Northeast Regional Park

The Northeast Regional Park is a largely undeveloped regional park on the City's northeast side. It has hiking and mountain biking trails, ponds and other natural features, and a small level field targeted for future park development. It is recommended that the City consider the following improvements to the Northeast Regional Park:

- Complete needed improvements to the sledding hill, including consideration of a parking lot. This facility would replace the Ardon Park hill that is no longer viable due to safety concerns caused by surrounding development.
- Create a paved off-road trail connection that allows the Ice Age NST to connect through the park.
- Enhance on-street parking where appropriate, and install parking lots to facilitate access to the park.
- Add an athletic field, pavilion, restroom, and play ground in the northwest corner of the park.
- Develop a management plan for the protection of glacial and other natural features found in the park.

Palmer Park

Palmer Park is located along East Racine Street and Interstate 39/90. The combination of Palmer Park and Blackhawk Golf Course creates a green gateway that welcomes interstate travelers to Janesville. In addition to this, Palmer Park acts as a buffer to the interstate and creates a green oasis in the middle of the City's urban core. The park contains a wading pool, C.A.M.D.E.N. Playground (fully ADA accessible), paved trails, dog exercise area, and nine tennis courts. It is recommended that the City consider the following improvements to Palmer Park:

- Portions of the park may be undeveloped or underutilized. As the City grows and recreational needs expand, existing recreational uses within the park may need to be re-evaluated in conjunction with future recreational needs of the park.
- Provide support for the rehabilitation of the C.A.M.D.E.N playground.
- Create a parking lot in the dog exercise area of the park.

- Replace outdated play equipment as possible.
- Maintain and enhance the oak over story located along Racine St. and northeast slope of the park.

Traxler Park

Traxler Park is a community park located on the river. It hosts many special events, such as the annual 4th of July fireworks display. It is also home to the Rock Aqua Jays, a nationally recognized water-ski team. The park is home to the Veteran's Plaza and Traxler Lagoon, a favorite location for fishing. It is recommended that the City consider the following improvements to Traxler Park:

- Examine further developing the theme of honoring veterans already present in the park.
- Improve warming house and make it ADA accessible.
- Consider improving water quality of Traxler Lagoon by dredging or other appropriate applications.
- Improve the river wall surrounding Traxler Lagoon with natural rip-rap.
- Utilize dredging to enhance fishing opportunities in Traxler Lagoon.
- Utilize dredging to enhance the Rock Aqua Jay's performance arena in the Rock River.

The following recommendations are also described in ARISE:

- Expand parking facilities as possible.
- Facilitate the creation of a trail connection to the Downtown.
- Add additional riverfront/parkland in order to create a link to the downtown.

Monterey Park

Monterey Park is a community park located along the river and adjacent to Wilson Elementary School. It provides fishing opportunities for residents, public ball fields, and has a large athletic stadium that is used by the high school varsity football and track teams. The facilities are connected to the larger community by the bike trail. Removal of the current ballfields and development of a park master plan is recommended. An upgraded park could include additional parking, a picnic shelter, and additional trees.

Optimist Park

Optimist Park is located along Blackhawk Creek. The Optimist Club has provided electricity and a small picnic shelter. Local youth teams use the area of flat open space as a practice field. There are also established native plant communities being fostered within the Park. As warranted, it is recommended that the open space along Ruger Avenue be improved and expanded for recreational field uses and parking lot.

Dawson Field

Dawson Field is a softball complex located on Beloit Avenue. The City should examine possible recreation uses or improvements for the open space west of the softball fields.

Lions Park

Lions Park is a large natural area located long Palmer Drive. Lions Pond and the associated Lions Beach are two of the special amenities of the Park. Lions Beach is located next to Rotary Gardens,

Kiwanis Pond and Black Hawk Golf Course. The massing of these facilities creates a park campus, where the amenities have the opportunity to complement each other. Some potential improvements include floating docks, slides, changing facilities and concessions. Additionally, the bathhouse should be renovated to an open-air pavilion and picnic space. Consideration should also be given to providing landscape enhancements or improvements to slopes adjoining the north side of Lions Pond opposite Rotary Gardens.

Beloit Avenue Open Space Area

In November, 1999, the City acquired land and established TIF District No. 22 along Beloit Avenue south of Burbank Avenue. The establishment of the industrial district included a 55-acre buffer zone that was set aside as open space to separate the residential neighborhood in this area from the planned industrial district to the south (Beloit Avenue Open Space Area). This open space area is currently unnamed and undeveloped. The southernmost portion of the site is developed with a stormwater retention pond while the balance of property is undeveloped. A bike trail extends through this area connecting the residential neighborhood to the trail system along STH 11. Future use of this area may include winter recreation on a newly placed earth hill, landscaped berms adjoining residential areas, and flat open space utilized for recreation fields and open space.

Downtown Park Areas

The Rock River runs through the center of Downtown Janesville, providing a wealth of river frontage and the associated small parks and open space. The Downtown area is also part of an important revitalization plans, as detailed in the *Downtown Vision and Strategy*, adopted in 2007 and refined more recently in the *Rock Renaissance Area Redevelopment and Implementation Strategy (ARISE)*, adopted in 2015. The following are miscellaneous improvements related to the downtown area:

- Create a downtown riverwalk and heritage trail that would create pedestrian walkways along the river, have works of art dedicated to the region's history, and provide additional pedestrian connections across the river, as detailed in the *Downtown Vision and Strategy*.
- Replace the Parking Plaza over the Rock River with the Town Square, a public place that celebrates the Rock River with a variety of amenities: river terrace with access to the river, floating dock, iconic pedestrian bridge, Riverwalk, overlooks, Great Lawn, seating, and shelters.
- Provide additional pedestrian amenities throughout the downtown, such as benches, decorative plantings, trashcans, informational kiosks, signage and trail connections, as detailed in the *Downtown Vision and Strategy*, *ARISE*, and *2015-2050 Long Range Transportation Plan*.
- The largest undeveloped public waterfront space in the downtown is located between the Hedberg Library and the Janesville Performing Arts Center. It is 1.3 acres in size with 330' of river frontage. Park planning began in 2001 and to date the Lions Club and Friends of the Library have raised funding for the provision of a colorful walkway, children's sculptures, benches and landscaping. Future plans call for a riverfront public walkway and artistic iconic-structure for performances and special events.

Park Access and Parking Lots

The City should continue to work toward increasing park access as needed, paving all parking lots and keeping them in good repair. The City's note issue provides funding for ongoing surfacing of park system gravel parking lots, repair or maintenance of existing parking lots as well as the construction of new parking lots. Examples include: Rock River Parkway lots, Rockport Park satellite lots, Northeast Regional Park and various bike trail access points. New parking lots are

proposed when justification shows that existing parking does not adequately serve recreational facilities or where new recreation facilities are constructed.

Oak Hill Cemetery

Oak Hill Cemetery is located on N. Washington St. The City acquired the property in 2008 from the former cemetery association. The grounds cover 90 acres, contain approximately 24,000 graves, and 13 miles of roadways. The City is working with community members and a friends group to assist with restoration of Oak Hill Chapel and operations.

Senior Citizens

The City should continue to evaluate and strive to meet the recreational needs of senior citizens in the community.

Park Playground Renovations

Parks Department has prepared a Play Equipment Renovation Plan, which establishes a priority list for renovation of existing park playground equipment. Through the annual note issue, the City intends to budget \$80,000 to renovate two park playgrounds each year. When feasible, hard surface access should be provided and the playgrounds in community parks made ADA accessible. The complete Play Equipment Renovation Plan is in Appendix D.



Briar Crest Park Playground Equipment

Multi-use Trails

The City should continue to expand upon the existing off-road trail system. A comprehensive multi-use trail network, primarily in greenbelts, on parkland or along abandoned rail lines has been identified for improvement. This recommendation provides for the continuation of paved trails servicing residential neighborhoods throughout the City. The Ice Age NST, which may or may not be paved, will connect with and serve as a part of this off-road trail system. Future trail extensions are shown on Map 4 and come directly from the 2015-2050 Long Range Transportation Plan.

Urban Forestry

Continue to support city-wide urban forestry efforts. The City of Janesville has a licensed forester on staff to coordinate forestry efforts. Annually the Parks Division plants as many as 8,000 tree and shrub seedlings which the City receives free from the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources as part of the Community School Forest program. These plantings have helped to restore greenbelt areas to more naturally occurring forest types. There is a mix of tree types based on neighborhood input and seedling availability including evergreens, hardwoods, mixed and prairie. These trees also provide the City of Janesville with an excellent opportunity to involve young people in the tree planting process nurturing a sense of ownership and responsibility for our open spaces.

The City of Janesville achieves terrace planting through a combination of sources. The Parks Division provides funding for general tree planting in the Parks, and assists with street tree planting

in the downtown. Engineering regularly requires street tree planting when making major changes to streets. Zoning ordinance requires trees around commercial properties and parking lots.

The Janesville Urban Forest Alliance (JUFA), a private non-profit community organization, provides a varying degree of planting and maintenance support for projects that are both City and JUFA instigated. These projects have included storm replacement, screening, school forest, City street tree projects, Arbor Day plantings, street tree inventory and many educational projects.

It is the City of Janesville's intent to continue supporting the numerous processes currently being undertaken to improve and maintain the urban forest. The DNR and other agencies, such as Alliant Energy, have annual grant programs that may be beneficial to the urban forestry efforts of the City of Janesville. The City of Janesville should consider formalizing street trees as part of the public improvements required in residential areas.

Dog Exercise Areas

The City will continue to support dog exercise areas and look for opportunities to develop additional facilities. When it is feasible and funding is available, an effort should be made to create fenced dog parks.

Aquatic Facilities

The City hired Bonestroo Sports, an aquatic consulting firm, to evaluate and make recommendations to the City Council for future aquatic improvements and upgrades to Rockport Pool, Palmer Wading Pool, and Lions Beach. The City

Council also asked the Administration to evaluate the feasibility of reestablishing an aquatic facility at Riverside Park. The following is a summary of the Administration's analysis:

- Rockport Pool was built in 1980 and is experiencing numerous mechanical problems and poor attendance due to limited play value of recreation amenities.
- Palmer Wading Pool vessel is 70 years old and the mechanical system is 17 years old. This facility is not handicap accessible.
- Lions Beach is 58 years old and provides free swimming with no lifeguard services.
- Riverside Wading Pool was closed in 2001 due to poor attendance and high operational costs. The City constructed a splashpad in 2015.

Roadway Medians and City Gateways

The Parks Division has maintenance responsibilities for high visibility thoroughfares with planted boulevards leading into Janesville. A few median areas are maintained and beautified by private businesses and other organizations such as K & W Greenery. These areas are maintained with trees, turf, and decorative plantings. Maintenance efforts will increase in future years with the interstate re-construction.



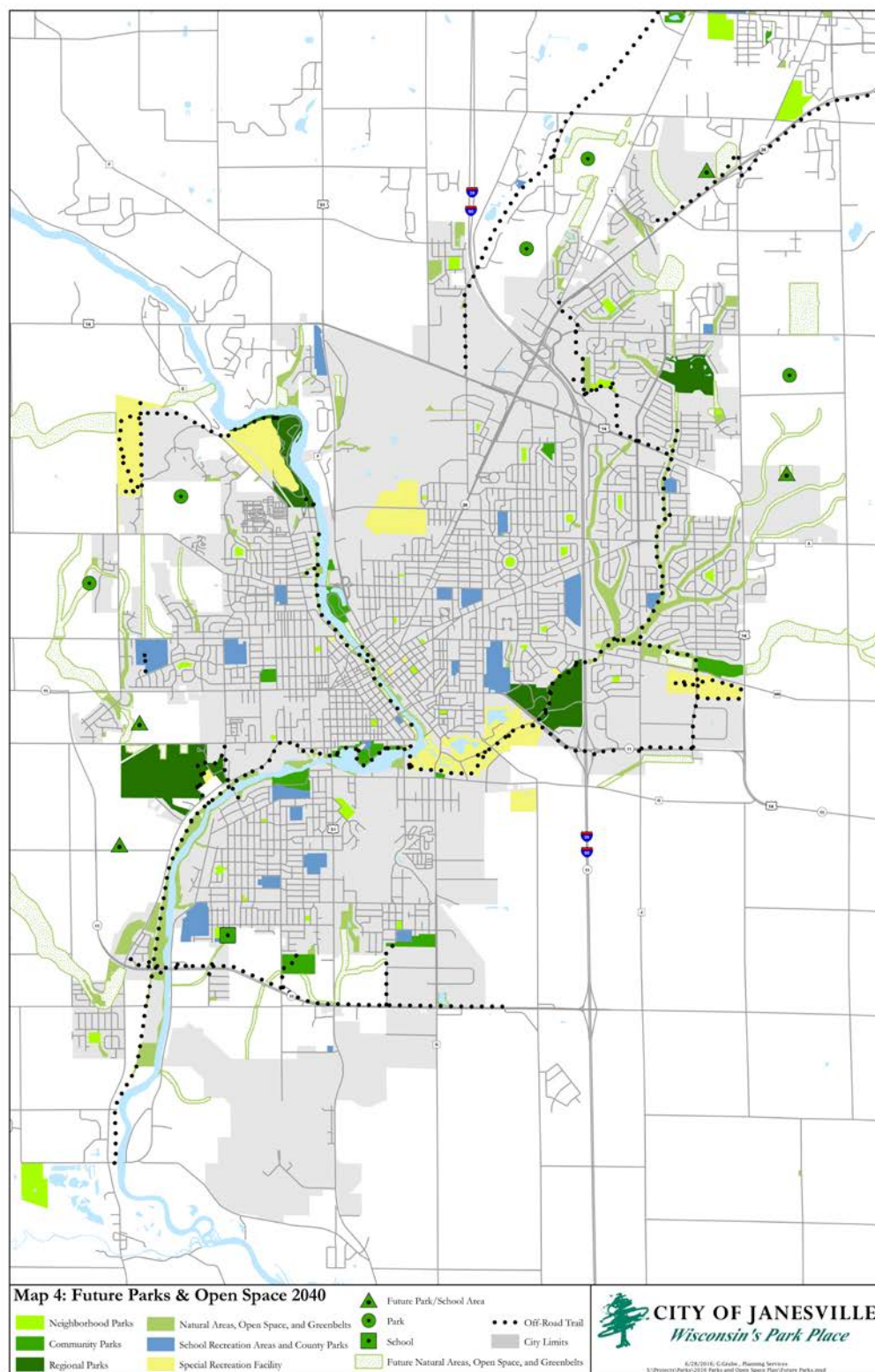
Dogs Playing at Paw Print Park

Rock River

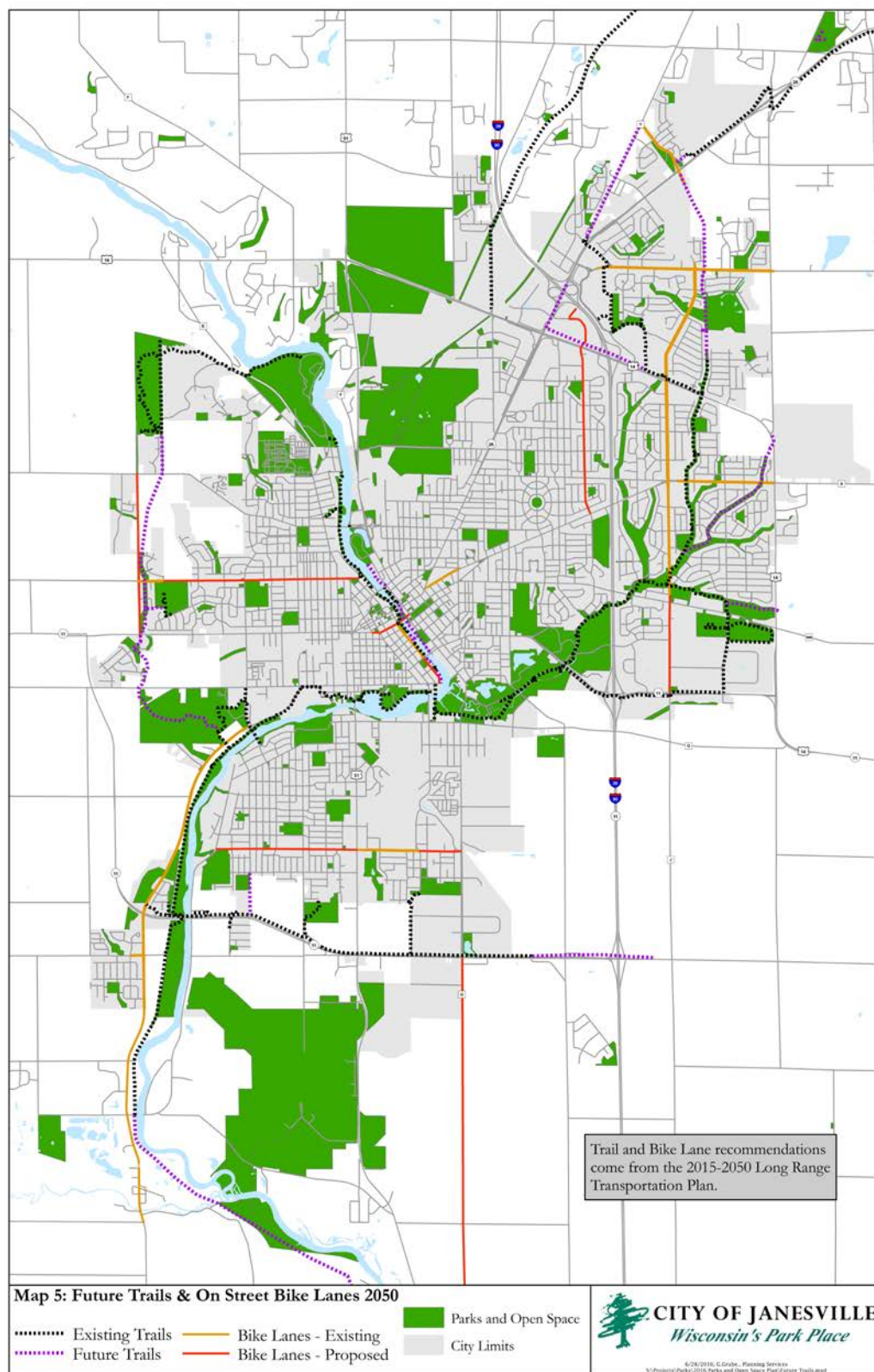
The Rock River is an important part of the City of the City of Janesville, and a key element of the Downtown. There are several projects related to the Rock River that are being recommended as part of this plan. The following are various improvements related to the Rock River between Centerway and the Monterey Dam.

- **Monterey Dam Restoration:** The City will pursue DNR required improvements and plans. Removal of the dam may also be explored. Waterway rehabilitation measures should emphasize public safety and enhancement of recreational waterfront opportunities such as fishing, nature observation and kayaking.
- **River Walls:** Within the urban core of the River, from Centerway to Monterey Dam, many portions of river wall are reaching the end of their life, and will need repair or replacement. At this time, it is recommended that the City work with the DNR to evaluate alternatives to the current structures, with a focus on improving water quality and water habitats for aquatic life, and creating a more inviting and welcoming atmosphere along the River through improved public access.
- **Rock River Committee:** Develop a Rock River Committee that would be created out of a partnership between the City, local citizens and the DNR. The Committee would be responsible for evaluating river opportunities in Janesville.

Map 4: Future Parks and Open Space 2040



Map 5: Future Trails & On Street Bike Lanes 2050



Chapter Six: Implementation

The recommendations presented in this *Plan* will be phased over time. This phasing will be dictated by several factors, including private landowner decisions to develop their property for residential use and by the funding available to the City to make necessary acquisitions or improvements.

The City should coordinate efforts with other units of government (e.g. Rock County and surrounding communities), governmental departments and public agencies (e.g. school districts, Wisconsin Department of Transportation, National Park Service, and Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources), volunteer organizations, foundations and private and non-profit agencies to help fund and implement the recommendations presented in this *Plan*.

A. Park and Recreation Facility Acquisition and Funding Options

The park and open space improvements recommended in this *Plan* should be incorporated into the City's capital improvement plans and other Parks Division improvement programs (see Appendix D: Play Equipment Renovation Program). The following are other acquisition and funding options available to the City.

City Ordinances/Subdivision Regulations

Generally, the City of Janesville should continue to utilize its existing planning framework and regulations to implement the recommendations in this *Plan*. The City should amend its subdivision ordinance to reflect the recommendations for parkland dedication presented in earlier in this *Plan*, and should continue to use the development review process to secure parklands as development occurs. The City should also consider amending its Subdivision Ordinance to require street trees in new residential subdivisions.

Impact Fees

Currently, the City does not have an impact fee for parkland dedication and improvements. Rather, the City requires either five percent of each development be dedicated as parkland or a fee in lieu of land dedication. The City should reevaluate parkland dedication requirements and methodology, including considering a parkland acquisition impact fee and park improvement fee.

Grant Programs

There are a number of potential funding sources available to help finance implementation, including state and federal grant programs (listed in Appendix F). It should be noted that funds from many of these grant programs are subject to change due to fluctuations in federal, state, and local budgets.

Appendix A: Background Information

A. Natural Resources

A survey of Janesville's natural environment provides an important framework for guiding the park and open space planning process. There are several characteristics of the City's natural landscape that will direct the development of future park and recreational facilities.

Climate

Southeastern Wisconsin's climate is characterized by four distinct seasons. Warm summers generally span the months of June through August. The winter months of December, January, and February are cold, with average temperatures below freezing. The region is characterized by temperate conditions in spring and autumn. The first autumn freeze typically occurs around the second week of October, and the last spring freeze is usually sometime during the first week of May.

Soils

Soil suitability is a key factor in determining the best and most cost-effective locations for new development. Similar to urban development, soil suitability impacts locations for different types of recreation uses. While active recreation uses would be limited on certain soils, which have slumping, poor drainage, erosion, steep slopes, and high water tables, these areas might be suitable for passive recreation. The soils in the majority of the City of Janesville, and the periphery, are porous and present some challenges for some types of development. Additionally, Janesville is located near the extremely productive agricultural soils generally located east of USH 51, south of CTH A and north of Avalon Road, and the other productive soil complexes to the north, west and south.

Watersheds and Water Bodies

The City is entirely within the Rock River drainage basin. The City is further divided into three smaller watersheds: Blackhawk Creek in the eastern and southern areas, Rock River/Milton in the north central area, and Bass Creek in the western portion of the City. Originating just north of the Horicon Marsh, the Rock River collects water from eleven Wisconsin counties before entering Illinois on its way to the Mississippi River. In addition to the Rock River, there are smaller water bodies that flow through the City into the Rock, including Fisher Creek, Markham Creek, and Spring Brook Creek.



Rock River

Groundwater

Groundwater is comprised of the portion of rainfall that does not run off to streams or rivers and that does not evaporate or transpire from plants. This water percolates down through the soil until it reaches the saturated zone of an aquifer. Groundwater supplies all of the water for domestic, commercial and industrial uses in the City. However, groundwater contamination is of concern in

many parts of the south-central Wisconsin as a result of the varied characteristics of the bedrock and surface geology. Areas with sandy soils, thin soils, or fractured bedrock are the most susceptible to contamination from specific urban and rural land uses.

In rural areas, the most common groundwater contaminant is nitrate-nitrogen, which can come from improperly functioning on-site wastewater systems, animal feedlots, livestock waste facilities, sludge and septage application, lawn and agricultural fertilizers, and decaying plant debris.

Across the Rock River Basin about 13 percent of the private and public wells tested for nitrates had levels above the enforced nitrate levels, however this percentage varied geographically. In the Upper Rock overall, the percentage of wells with high nitrate levels was 7.9 percent and in the Lower Rock 18.9 percent. Janesville is located in the lower Rock River Basin.

The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources maintains Wisconsin's Source Water Assessment Program (SWAP), which indicates that the City of Janesville's municipal water system has a "high susceptibility to contamination." The report suggests that the City's existing well-head protection programs and ordinances should continue to be updated as necessary, and that wells for which well-head protection programs do not exist, risks should be evaluated.

Vegetation

At the time of European settlement, much of southeastern Wisconsin was covered with prairie and oak savannah, oak woods, and lowlands. Since that time, most of the land has been converted to agricultural and urban uses. Small wooded areas are scattered throughout the City. Dominant forest types include oak-hickory and maple-basswood.

Wildlife Habitat

Species of wildlife common to the southeastern Wisconsin region are rabbits, squirrels, woodchucks, raccoons, turkeys, muskrats, and beavers. Larger mammals such as white-tailed deer, coyotes, and foxes also inhabit the region. Common bird species include pheasants, cardinals, robins, woodthrushes, great blue herons, and killdeer.

B. Population and Demographics

The City's park and recreation system is influenced by the size and characteristics of its population. The population forecasts presented in Chapter Four help to determine future demand for recreation facilities. Demographic characteristics help to determine the types of park and recreational facilities that the City will use now and in the future, which are presented in Chapter Five.

Population

The City of Janesville experienced significant growth during the 1970s and 1990s. Table 9 compares the City of Janesville's population trends over the past thirty years with the County and the State.

Table 9: Population Trends

	1980	1990	2000	2010	% Population Change 1980-2000	% Population Change 1990-2010
City of Janesville	51,071	52,210	60,200	63,575	17.9	21.7
Rock County	139,420	139,510	152,307	160,331	9.2	14.9
State of Wisconsin	4,705,642	4,891,769	5,363,675	5,686,986	14.0	16.2

Source: U.S. Census 1980-2010

Age Distribution

Table 10 compares the age and gender distribution for the City of Janesville in the year 2010 to Rock County and the State of Wisconsin. Age distribution is an important factor when considering the future demands for housing, schools, and park and recreational facilities. Janesville's year 2010 median age of 37.1 was similar to or below the median age in all of the towns surrounding the City. Rock County's median age of 38.8 was very comparable.

The City has a healthy age profile. It does show the "baby boom factor" – one that is being realized nationwide. Still, the strong number of children and young adults in the City is considered unusual for a central city of this size, suggesting that the Baby Boomers are not the only group whose recreation needs need to be considered. This *Plan* includes recommendations for activities and facilities that serve a broad range of age groups.

Table 10: Age and Gender Distribution, 2010

	Median Age	% Under 18	% Over 65	% Female
City of Janesville	37.1	21.8	13.9	51.1
Rock County	38	25.1	13.6	50.8
Wisconsin	38.5	23.6	13.7	50.4

Source: U.S. Census, 2010

Racial Distribution

2010 Census shows Janesville is predominantly Caucasian and Non-Hispanic but it is becoming more diverse. Table 11 compares the City of Janesville's racial and ethnic distribution to neighboring communities, Rock County, and Wisconsin. The populations of the City and the surrounding towns are not diverse racially. The City's non-white population in 2010 was 8.3%, up from 4.7% in 2000. Neighboring cities like Beloit and Rock County all possess populations that are significantly more racially diverse than the City of Janesville. The other racial groups represented in the population in the City of Janesville include very small percentages of American Indian or Alaska Native (0.3 percent) Native Hawaiian and other Pacific Islander (less than 1 percent), some other race (2 percent), and person of two or more races (2.1 percent).

Table 11: Race and Ethnicity, 2010

	Racial Distribution				Ethnicity	
	% White	% Black	% Asian	% Other Race	% Hispanic or Latino	% Not Hispanic or Latino
City of Janesville	91.7	2.6	1.3	2.0	5.4	94.6
Rock County	87.6	5	1	3.7	7.6	92.4
Wisconsin	86.2	6.3	2.3	2.4	5.9	94.1

Source: U.S. Census, 2010 Note: Other Race category includes American Native or Alaska Native, Native Hawaiian and other Pacific Islander, other races, and people of two or more races.

The 2010 Census does not include Hispanic and Latino people in the racial distribution. Rather, Hispanic and Latino are considered to be an ethnicity. Hispanic and Latinos can be any race and/or Hispanic. There is a clear trend for a growing Hispanic population moving into Wisconsin, many from the Chicago area. It is likely that Janesville will continue to be attractive for all racial and ethnic groups with its good schools, affordable housing, and high quality of life. As is the case with many communities, it is expected that the City's population will become more diverse during the planning period. This presents many opportunities for recreation (e.g. cultural programming) and challenges (e.g. language barriers). As racial diversity in the City increases, median age may also begin to decline – as is observed in other diversifying communities.



Woodcrest Park

Employment Characteristics

Employment trends within the City reflect shifts within the City's and the national economy. The City's labor force participation is 67.3 percent according to the 2010-2014 American Community Survey. The rate of participation has declined since 2000.

The percentage of the City's labor force employed by sector in 2000 and 2010 is shown in Table 12. The City's economy is diversifying toward skilled services. Just over 20 percent of the labor force is employed in the manufacturing sector, which is reflective of the City's large "blue collar" workforce and history of manufacturing. The educational, health, and social services sector employs another 22.1 percent of the workforce, now the largest sector.

Table 12: Occupational Groups, 2000 and 2010

Occupational Group	% of Labor Force (2000)	% of Labor Force (2010)
Manufacturing	29.0	20.1
Educational, health, and social services	18.6	22.1
Retail trade	13.7	14.1
Arts, entertainment, recreation, accommodation, and food services	6.7	9.5
Professional, scientific, administrative, and waste management services	5.1	6.5
Construction	5.2	4.9
Transportation, warehousing, and utilities	4.5	4.5
Wholesale trade	4.0	4.8
Finance, insurance, real estate, rental, and leasing	3.9	3.6
Other services (except public administration)	3.7	4.9
Public Administration	2.9	2.8
Information	2.4	1.5
Agriculture, forestry, fishing, hunting, and mining	0.5	0.6

Source: U.S. Census, 2000

Household Characteristics

Table 13 presents household characteristics for the City of Janesville compared to Rock County and Wisconsin. The median value of a home in the City of Janesville is lower than Rock County and Wisconsin overall. In 2010, Janesville's average household size was in line with other jurisdictions. Household sizes are trending toward decline nationwide. This factor is important to consider when planning for land use demand and the distribution of housing in the City, which, in turn, has implications for the provision and distribution of parks and recreational facilities. The trend toward smaller households suggests need for types of housing that accommodate singles, empty-nesters, and single-parent households. The City of Janesville also has a significantly lower percentage of owner occupied homes than the surrounding towns and Rock County, but a greater percentage of owner occupied homes than the Cities of Beloit and Rockford.



Optimist Park

Table 13: Household Characteristic Comparisons

	Total Housing Units	Average Household Size	Median Home Value	Vacant	Owner Occupied	Median Rent
City of Janesville	27,996	2.43	\$129,200	7.7	68.0	\$744
Rock County	68,422	2.5	\$131,500	8.1	70.6	\$744
Wisconsin	2,624,358	2.43	\$165,900	13.1	68.1	\$772

Source: U.S. Census, 2010, 2010-2014 American Community Survey

Appendix B: Park Facilities Matrix

Type	Park Name	Total Acres	Quadrant on City Map
Regional	Northeast Regional Park	88.45	S-21
Regional	Palmer Park	164.87	O-14
Regional	Riverside Park	97.48	J-19
Regional	Rockport Park	267.79	H-13
Community	Bond Park	11.86	J-15
Community	Kiwanis Community Park	9.12	P-19
Community	Lustig Park	30.85	K-13
Community	Monterey Park	29.42	L-13
Community	Optimist Community Park	37.14	S-15
Community	Prairie Knoll Park	38.88	K-9
Community	Traxler Park	37.50	L-16
Community	Unnamed Community Park	54.70	M-10
Neighborhood	Fourth Ward park	2.05	L-14
Neighborhood	Adams Park	0.93	M-16
Neighborhood	Ardon Park	4.11	O-19
Neighborhood	Briar Crest Park	9.39	Q-20
Neighborhood	Burbank Park	2.36	M-10
Neighborhood	Claremont Park	3.43	P-17
Neighborhood	Excalibur Park	3.82	Q-18
Neighborhood	Greendale Park	1.42	Q-15
Neighborhood	Hampshire Park	2.44	Q-15
Neighborhood	Harmony Grove Park	8.11	N-23
Neighborhood	Hawthorne Park	4.50	O-17
Neighborhood	Holiday Park	1.53	N-20
Neighborhood	Huron Park	1.97	P-16
Neighborhood	Industrial Park	1.41	J-14
Neighborhood	Jefferson Park	2.21	M-15
Neighborhood	Loch Lomond Park	7.48	G-8
Neighborhood	Mandale Park	3.13	P-18
Neighborhood	Marquette Park	11.87	L-12
Neighborhood	Nantucket Park	4.63	S-17
Neighborhood	Parker Park	.94	M-15
Neighborhood	Pershing Park	3.02	I-11
Neighborhood	Prairie Park	0.81	M-17
Neighborhood	River Valley Park	1.37	J-11
Neighborhood	Ruger Park	1.66	O-15
Neighborhood	Rushmore Park	0.97	J-12
Neighborhood	Sherwood Park	4.08	J-17
Neighborhood	South Gate Park	1.32	K-10

Type	Park Name	Total Acres	Quadrant on City Map
Neighborhood	Unnamed Park	2.81	S-20
Neighborhood	Valley Park	3.63	I-10
Neighborhood	Vista Park	1.38	N-14
Neighborhood	Washington Park	1.66	K-15
Neighborhood	Waveland Park	4.10	I-15
Neighborhood	Woodcrest Park	6.97	Q-22
Neighborhood	Zonta Park	1.07	M-18
Special Use Facility	Black Bridge Hills Recreation Area: North	87.87	M-18
Special Use Facility	Black Bridge Hills Recreation Area: South	50.25	L-18
Special Use Facility	Blackhawk Golf Course	78.33	O-14
Special Use Facility	Blackhawk Meadows Park	2.09	P-15
Special Use Facility	Courthouse Hill Park: Lower	1.60	M-15
Special Use Facility	Courthouse Hill Park: Upper	1.60	M-15
Special Use Facility	Dawson Field	25.03	N-13
Special Use Facility	Janesville Ice Skating Center	3.90	N-14
Special Use Facility	Jeffris Park	9.70	M-13
Special Use Facility	Kiwanis Pond	34.36	O-14
Special Use Facility	La Prairie Park	33.12	O-13
Special Use Facility	Lincoln Tallman House	1.37	L-15
Special Use Facility	Lions Park	25.28	N-13
Special Use Facility	Peace Park	5.59	I-13
Special Use Facility	Riverside Golf Course	135.73	J-19
Special Use Facility	Robert O. Cook Memorial		H-19
Special Use Facility	Arboretum	159.62	
Special Use Facility	Rotary Gardens	17.66	N-13
Special Use Facility	Spring Brook Preservation Area	50.99	N-13
Special Use Facility	Youth Sports Complex	86.17	S-15
Rock River Parkway	Rock River Parkway	217.16	L-17
Small Parks	East River Walkway	0.60	L-15
Small Parks	Firehouse Park	0.15	L-15
Small Parks	Unnamed	1.44	N-22
Small Parks	Parker Park	0.94	M-15
Small Parks	Riverfront Park	0.58	M-14
Small Parks	Unnamed	0.23	N-16
Small Parks	Unnamed	0.21	N-16
Small Parks	Unnamed	2.04	M-14
Small Parks	Unnamed	0.74	M-14
Small Parks	Volunteer Park	0.18	L-15
Schools	Adams Elementary School	9.57	N-16
Schools	Craig High School	59.91	O-15
Schools	Edison Middle School	24.58	K-11
Schools	Franklin Middle School	14.96	J-15
Schools	Harmony Elementary School	5.60	S-22

Type	Park Name	Total Acres	Quadrant on City Map
Schools	Harrison Elementary School	9.72	R-16
Schools	Jackson Elementary School	10.21	M-10
Schools	Jefferson Elementary School	13.40	O-18
Schools	Kennedy Elementary School	10.00	R-19
Schools	Lincoln Elementary School	13.78	J-11
Schools	Madison Elementary School	16.43	J-15
Schools	Marshall Middle School	25.07	P-16
Schools	Monroe Elementary School	17.93	P-16
Schools	Parker High School	54.35	H-15
Schools	Roosevelt Elementary School	5.93	N-15
Schools	University of Wisconsin - Rock County	37.95	I-10
Schools	Van Buren Elementary School	10.13	K-12
Schools	Washington Elementary School	11.90	K-16
Schools	Wilson Elementary School	3.17	L-13
Schools	Wisconsin School for the Blind	23.55	K-13
Schools	Future School Site	8.24	I-10
County Parks	4-H Fair Grounds	17.84	N-16
County Parks	Airport Park	1.92	K-8
County Parks	Ice Age Park	3.41	O-24
County Parks	PVT Golf Course	162.13	I-17
County Parks	Sportsman Park	9.48	K-21
Misc.	Bike Trail Connection	1.37	H-18
Misc.	Corn Exchange	0.09	L-15
Misc.	Dillenbeck Cemetery	0.13	O-21
Misc.	Parking Lot - Kiwanis Trailhead	0.08	R-15
Misc.	Unnamed	3.41	M-13
Misc.	Unnamed	0.12	M-13
Misc.	Unnamed	0.20	N-16
Misc.	Unnamed	0.02	N-16
Misc.	Unnamed	2.51	N-13
Misc.	Unnamed	0.15	M-15
Misc.	Unnamed	0.81	K-13
Misc.	Unnamed	0.26	N-15
Misc.	Walkway	0.10	Q-17
Misc.	Walkway	0.06	Q-15
Misc.	Walkway	0.06	Q-15
Misc.	Walkway	0.65	Q-15
Misc.	Unnamed	0.24	Q-16
Misc.	Unnamed	0.11	Q-16
Misc.	Unnamed	0.23	Q-16
Misc.	Unnamed	0.12	Q-16
Misc.	Unnamed	1.99	M-13

Type	Park Name	Total Acres	Quadrant on City Map
Misc.	Unnamed	0.14	J-12

Appendix C: Play Equipment Renovation Program, Janesville Parks Division

Revised 2-25-08

- I. Goal - To develop a systematic program to renovate and replace existing play equipment in the Park System.

- II. Purpose
 - A. To remove deteriorated and unsafe play equipment to reduce City liability.

 - B. To comply with standards established by the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), United States Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) and American Society for Testing and Materials (ASTM).

 - C. Generally, this program will not provide for new play structures in newly developed parks, only renovation of existing playgrounds.

- III. Objectives
 - A. To recycle existing play equipment that is desirable to retain. This equipment may be repositioned in a park to provide improved access and may receive new treatments, i.e. new paint, bearings, chains, etc.

 - B. Remove equipment that the industry standards recommend to be eliminated because of a high number of accidents and incidents. Examples include, but are not limited to, merry-go-rounds, teeter-totters and metal animal swings. For reasons of liability, this equipment must be disposed of as scrap. It may not be given or sold to anyone for use as play equipment.

 - C. Install new play equipment to supplement or replace existing equipment. This new equipment should be low maintenance, compliment existing equipment and provide a safe fall area.

 - D. Conduct neighborhood meetings as necessary to solicit input and recommendations from park users.

 - E. Develop a systematic approach of accomplishing two parks every year based upon available funds.

 - F. Make maximum use of contractor's services to facilitate work accomplishment in a timely fashion.

- IV. Scope
 - A. This effort will include all playgrounds in all of our park areas including neighborhood, community and regional parks.

- B. Funding will cover the cost of materials, labor and equipment rental to reduce funding impacts on the park operating budget.
 - C. In addition to purchasing play equipment and benches, the project funding may also include removal/relocation of existing play equipment, berming, resilient surfacing, grading and seeding.
 - D. This project does not include the play equipment currently located at Rockport Pool and Lions Beach.
- V. Site Criteria - The Parks Division Staff identified the following criteria to assist in determining which playgrounds would be renovated and the priority for renovation.
- Age of the park equipment.
 - Comments and complaints from the public.
 - Level of current usage.
 - Site for a supervised playground.
 - Safety concerns related to existing equipment and site conditions.
 - Level of vandalism.
 - Current level of maintenance required to keep the equipment operational.
 - Current physical condition of existing play equipment.
 - Geographic location of park.
 - Availability of cost-sharing funds.
 - Staff recommendation.
 - Two-acre minimum park size.
- VI. Priority for Renovation - Many parks have new play equipment, or the playground may have been recently renovated as part of our regular park maintenance program. The staff identified only those playground sites that are in need of equipment renovation based on the above criteria. Park sites were then evaluated and categorized as a low or high priority for renovation as indicated in Tables 3 & 4. An asterisk on the following tables indicates those neighborhood parks that do not meet the two-acre minimum requirement. Attachment A details acreage by park.

PLAYGROUNDS RENOVATION SCHEDULE

Table 14: Parks Renovated Since 1995

Park	Year Renovated
1. Excalibur Park	1995
2. Fourth Ward Park	1995
4. Jefferson Park	1997
5. Washington Park*	1997
6. Zonta Park*	1997
7. Southgate Park*	1998
8. Vista Park* (\$7,000 donation)	1998
9. Bond Park	1998
11. Briar Crest Park (Phase I)	1998
12. Briar Crest Park (Phase II)	1999
13. Prairie Park*	1999
14. Sherwood Park	1999
15. Marquette Park (\$10,000 donation)	1999
16. Hawthorne Park	2000
17. Valley Park (\$8,000 donation)	2000
18. North Riverside Park (\$10,000 donation)	2001
19. Burbank Park	2002
20. Huron Park*	2002
21. Woodcrest Park	2005
22. Claremont Park	2004
23. Hampshire Park	2004
24. Mandale Park	2005
25. Waveland Park	2005
26. Nantucket Park	2006
27. Riverside Park - south	2007
28. Holiday Park *	2007
29. Lustig Park	2010
30. Ruger Park	2010
31. Harmony Grove Park	2011
32. Pershing Park	2012

34. Adams Park	2013
33. Rushmore Park	2012
35. Palmer Park - Hilltop Pavilion	2014
36. Palmer Park – Central – Zip Line	2014
37. Loch Lomond Park	2015
38. Marquette Park	2016
39. Southgate Park	2016

Table 14 indicates the playgrounds that have been renovated since 1995.

*These parks do not meet the criteria of two-acre minimum park size.

Table 15: Funded Playground Renovation Projects

Proposed Future Plans for Playground Renovation

Table 16: Playground Renovation (Replace these CCA Treated Wood Structures)

Note Issue June (year)	Park Name & Year Built	Construction Year
2013	CAMDEN 1993	2016
2016	Kiwanis Park 1994	2017
2018	Excalibur Park 1995	2018
2019	Zonta Park 1997	2019
2019	Vista Park 1998	2019
2020	Briarcrest Park 1999	2020
2017	Prairie Park 1999	2017
2018	Valley Park 2000	2018

Table 16 lists renovation of existed wooden playground structures that are pressure treated with Copper Chromium Arsenate (CCA), suggested as a possible health risk.

VII. Budget

A. New play equipment	\$35,000
B. Sand pit and berm	2,500
C. Benches and landscaping	1,500

D. Grading and seeding	1,000
E.	
F.	
	\$40,000

VIII. References

- A. Public Playground Handbook for Safety (March 1990) United States Consumer Products Safety Commission.
- B. Specifications for Playground Equipment for Public Use (1993) American Society for Testing and Materials.

ATTACHMENT A

Table 17: Janesville Park Playgrounds

PARK NAME	YEAR OF PLAYGROUND RENOVATION
Neighborhood Parks	
1. Prairie Park	1999
2. Adams Park	2013
3. Rushmore Park	2013
4. Zonta Park	1997
5. Southgate Park	1998
6. Vista Park	1998
7. Greendale Park	Undeveloped
8. Washington Park	1997
9. Pershing Park	1988
10. Holiday Park	2007
11. Ruger Park	2010
12. Huron Park	2002
13. River Valley Park	Undeveloped
14. Fourth Ward Park	1995
15. Jefferson Park	1997
16. Burbank Park	2002
17. Hampshire Park	2004
18. Mandale Park	2005
19. Claremont Park	2004
20. Waveland Park	2005
21. Excalibur Park	1995
22. Valley Park	2000
23. Sherwood Park	1999
24. Ardon Park	Undeveloped
25. Nantucket Park	2007
26. Hawthorne Park	2000

27. Loch Lomond Park	2015
28. Woodcrest Park	2005
29. Briar Crest Park	1999
30. Marquette Park	1999
31. Kiwanis Park	1994
32. Bond Park	1998
33. Traxler Park	2004
34. Lustig Park	2010
35. Prairie Knoll Park	Undeveloped
36. Monterey Park	No Playground
37. Jackson School Community Park	Undeveloped
38. Northeast Regional Park	Undeveloped
39. Riverside Park 1-North Pavilion 2-South Pavilion 3-Wading Pool	2001 2007 2001
40. Palmer Park 1-Camden 2-Central Sand 3-Hilltop Pavilion 4-East	2016 2014-Zipline 2014 1970's
41. Rockport Park 1-Wading Pool tot lot 2-Peace Playground	1980 2002

Appendix D: Peer Community Comparison

Since the early 1970's Janesville has promoted its park system as one of its strongest community assets. Wise long term planning has been used to preserve parks and open space, including extensive lands for public access along the Rock River, and protection of a large greenbelt drainage system. Today Janesville takes pride in the fact that it leads Wisconsin's large cities in parkland per capita, with more than 40 acres of parkland for each 1,000 residents.

Table 18: Comparison of Peer Communities

Janesville Peer Cities Ranked by Acres of Parkland per 1,000 Residents				
Rank by Acres / Capita	City	Population	Parkland Acreage	Acres per 1,000 res.
1	Janesville	62,720	2,568	40.9
2	LaCrosse	51,522	1,400	27.2
3	Green Bay	104,779	2,422	23.1
4	Beloit	36,888	924	25.0
5	Fond du Lac	43,021	692	16.1
6	Eau Claire	67,545	1,038	15.4
7	Waukesha	71,016	1,080	15.2
8	Racine	78,199	1,100	14.1
9	Sheboygan	49,288	551	10.8
10	Appleton	73,596	631	8.6
11	Wausau	39,106	328	8.4
12	Kenosha	99,889	871	8.1
13	Oshkosh	66,778	440	6.6
AVERAGE				16.7
For comparison	Madison	243,344	6,000	24.7

Appendix E: State and Federal Grant Programs

Program	Purpose	Funding Details	Deadline	Notes	Administrative Agency	Contact
Wisconsin Stewardship Programs						
Aids for the Acquisition and Development of Local Parks (ADLP)	To acquire or develop public, nature-based outdoor recreation areas and facilities	50% local match per project	1-May	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ A comprehensive outdoor recreation plan in required ▪ Priority for land acquisition ▪ Projects must comply with ADA 	WDNR	Cheryl Housley, South Central Region 608-275-3218
Urban Green Space Program (UGS)	To acquire land to provide natural space within or near urban areas, or to protect scenic or ecological features	50% local match per project	1-May	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ A comprehensive outdoor recreation plan in required ▪ Projects must comply with ADA 	WDNR	Cheryl Housley, South Central Region 608-275-3218
Acquisition of Development Rights	To acquire development rights for nature-based outdoor recreation areas and facilities	50% local match per project	1-May	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Funds available to acquire development rights in areas where restrictions on residential, industrial, or commercial developments are in place. ▪ May include enhancements of outdoor recreation. 	WDNR	Cheryl Housley, South Central Region 608-275-3218
Urban Rivers Grant Program (URGP)	To acquire lands, or rights in lands, adjacent to urban rivers for the purpose of preserving or restoring them for economic revitalization or nature-based outdoor recreation activities	50% local match per project	1-May	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ A comprehensive outdoor recreation plan in required ▪ Projects must comply with ADA 	WDNR	Cheryl Housley, South Central Region 608-275-3218

Federal Programs						
Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF)	To acquire or develop public outdoor recreation areas and facilities	50% local match per project	1-May	A comprehensive outdoor recreation plan is required	WDNR with FAST Act Funds	Cheryl Housley, South Central Region 608-275-3218
Recreational Trails Act (RTA)	To provide funds for maintenance, development, rehabilitation, and acquisition of land for motorized, non-motorized, and diversified trails	50% local match per project	1-May	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Funds may only be used on trails which have been identified in, or which further a specific goal of a local, county, or state trail plan. Funds may be used on trails that are referenced in a statewide comprehensive outdoor recreation plan 	WDNR with FAST Act Funds	Cheryl Housley, South Central Region 608-275-3218
Transportation Alternatives Program	Providing facilities for pedestrians and bicyclists.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Funded through FAST Act 20% required match 	Winter bi-annual	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Not a grant program. 80% of funds are reimbursed if all federal guidelines are met Project must relate to surface transportation Construction projects must be over \$100,000 Non-construction projects must be over \$25,000 	WisDOT	WisDOT Southwest Region
Surface Transportation Program (STP-U)	Provides flexible funds, which can be spent on a wide variety of projects, including roadway projects, transit facilities, and bicycle and pedestrian facilities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Funded through FAST Act 20% required match 	Bi-annual allocation to the MPO	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Allocation of funding provided to MPO every two years MPO solicits projects every two years. MPO Policy Board votes to allocate funding. 	WisDOT	MPO Coordinator
Other Programs						
Recreational Boating Fund	Encourages the development of recreational boating facilities and related activities	50% local match per project; may increase to 80% if the project is of statewide or regional significance and meets certain criteria		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> \$ available to conduct feasibility studies related to the development of safe recreation boating facilities and for construction of improvements \$ available to purchase aquatic weed harvesting equipment, navigation aids, dredging channels, and chemically treating Eurasian water milfoil. 	WDNR Wisconsin Waterways Commission	Cheryl Housley, South Central Region 608-275-3218
Urban Forestry Grants	Assistance for tree maintenance, planting, and public awareness	50% local match	1-Oct	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Funding is prioritized for communities needing to develop an urban forestry plan, needing worker training, and needing to conduct a street tree inventory 	WDNR Urban Forestry	Urban Forestry Specialist
Home Depot Community Improvement (Environmental) Grants	Assistance for forestry and ecology projects, clean-up beautification projects, recycling programs				Home Depot Community Affairs	Local Home Depot Store Manager

Appendix F: Public Comment Opportunities

Public Meetings

The Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee discussed the Plan update on June 14, 2016 and on August 9, 2016. The June meeting allowed the Committee to provide general direction about priorities and issues facing the City. City staff incorporated the committee's feedback in the final draft, which was presented at the committee's feedback at the August 9th meeting.

Survey Results

An online survey was published on the City's website from July 2nd through August 3rd. A link to the survey was emailed to a list of stakeholder organizations, and published on the Gazettextra website. A total of 320 individuals responded. Results of the survey were incorporated into the Plan and are included here.

Appendix G: Plan Adoption Resolutions

RESOLUTION NO. 2016-03

A resolution adopting the 2016 City of Janesville Park and Open Space Plan.

WHEREAS, the City of Janesville, pursuant to the provisions of Section 62.23 of the Wisconsin Statutes, has created a City Plan Commission; and

WHEREAS, it is the duty and the function of the City Plan Commission, pursuant to Section 62.23(2) of the Wisconsin Statutes, to make and adopt a master plan or portions thereof, for the development of the City of Janesville; and

WHEREAS, the City of Janesville desires to maintain its eligibility for grant funding for the acquisition and development of park and recreational facilities through the State Stewardship and Federal LAWCON programs; and

WHEREAS, the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources requires that the City update its **Park and Open Space Plan** every five years to maintain such eligibility and to assure that park planning goals, objectives, and policies are current; and

WHEREAS, the **2016 Park and Open Space Plan** has been prepared with the benefit of providing several opportunities for public input on parks, recreation and open space in the City; and

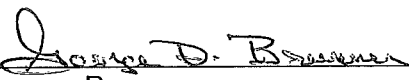
WHEREAS, the Plan Commission has reviewed the **2016 Park and Open Space Plan** and finds it to be an appropriate guide for the acquisition and development of park and open space lands for the City of Janesville.


NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THE JANESVILLE PLAN COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF JANESVILLE, WISCONSIN, that said Plan Commission hereby adopts the **2016 Park and Open Space Plan** document as a detailed component of the City's Comprehensive Plan.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City Plan Commission transmit a copy of this Resolution to the Common Council.

Adopted: 9-19-16

Approved:


George Brunner
Plan Commission Vice-Chairman

Attest:

Duane Cherek, Secretary

Proposed by: Planning Services
Prepared by: Planning Services

RESOLUTION NO. 2016-1350

A resolution adopting the 2016 City of Janesville Park and Open Space Plan.

WHEREAS, the City of Janesville is "Wisconsin's Park Place" and desires to maintain a high quality level of park and recreational amenities for the health and enjoyment of Janesville residents; and

WHEREAS, the City of Janesville desires to maintain its eligibility for grant funding for the acquisition and development of park and recreational facilities through the State Stewardship and Federal LAWCON programs; and

WHEREAS, the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources requires that the City update its *2016 Park and Open Space Plan* every five years to maintain such eligibility and to assure that park planning goals, objectives, and policies are current; and

WHEREAS, the *2016 Park and Open Space Plan* has been prepared with the benefit of providing several opportunities for public input on parks, recreation, and open space in the City; and

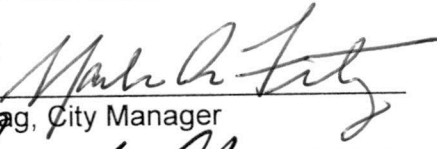
WHEREAS, the *2016 Park and Open Space Plan* will provide a guide to assist the City Council in making land use, property acquisition, and recreational development decisions in the City; and

WHEREAS, on September 19, 2016, the Plan Commission held a public hearing, reviewed the *2016 Park and Open Space Plan* and by unanimous vote adopted the plan as a component of the City's Comprehensive Plan and forwarded the plan to the Common Council with a favorable recommendation; and

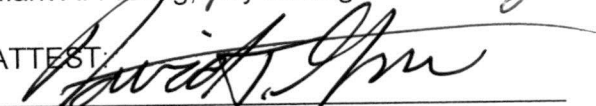
NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COMMON COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF JANESVILLE, WISCONSIN, that said City Council hereby adopts the **2016 Park and Open Space Plan** document as a detailed component of the City's Comprehensive Plan.

ADOPTED: October 24, 2016

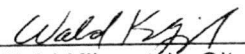
APPROVED:


Mark A. Freitag, City Manager

ATTEST:


David T. Godek, City Clerk-Treasurer

APPROVED AS TO FORM:


Wald Klimczyk, City Attorney

Proposed by: Planning Services Division

Prepared by: Planning Services Division

Motion by: Williams				
Second by: Liebert				
Councilmember	Aye	Nay	Pass	Absent
Deupree	X			
Gruber	X			
Jorgensen	X			
Liebert	X			
Marklein	X			
Tidwell				X
Williams	X			

